
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6054

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Honeyford, Hobbs, Schoesler, Cleveland, Rivers, King, Dammeier, Bailey, Hatfield, and Parlette)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to aeronautic safety; adding a new section to
2 chapter 14.16 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that
5 pilots that engage in low flying activities, such as aerial applicators
6 and search and rescue pilots, are provided with an as safe as possible
7 flying environment. It is also the intent of the legislature to create
8 a mechanism for alerting pilots of guyed towers that may be erected at
9 short notice and may be otherwise difficult to see from the air, posing
10 an air safety hazard.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 14.16 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) Except as provided otherwise in this section, a guyed tower
14 twenty-five feet or more in height that is located outside the
15 boundaries of an incorporated city or town on land that is primarily
16 rural or undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes, or that is
17 primarily desert, and where such guyed tower's appearance is not

1 otherwise governed by state or federal law, rule, or regulation, is
2 subject to the following requirements:

3 (a) The tower must be painted in five foot high alternating bands
4 of aviation orange and white.

5 (b) The tower must have a flashing light at the top of the tower.
6 The light must be visible in clear air from a distance of two thousand
7 feet when flashing. Such a light must also be visible with night
8 vision goggles.

9 (c) The surface area under the footprint of the tower and the
10 circular area surrounding each outer tower anchor, with a radius of six
11 feet, must have a contrasting appearance with any surrounding
12 vegetation.

13 (d) Two marker balls must be attached to and evenly spaced on each
14 of the outside guy wires.

15 (e) The tower must have a seven foot long safety sleeve at each
16 anchor point and must extend from the anchor point along each guy wire
17 attached to the anchor point.

18 (2) Any guyed tower that was erected prior to the effective date of
19 this section must be modified as required under this section within one
20 year of the effective date of this section.

21 (3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
22 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

23 (a) "Guyed tower" means a tower that is supported in whole or in
24 part by guy wires and ground anchors or other means of support besides
25 the superstructure of the tower itself.

26 (b) "Height" means the distance measured from the original grade at
27 the base of the tower to the highest point of the tower.

28 (4) This section does not apply to:

29 (a) Guyed towers used for military purposes;

30 (b) Power poles or nonguyed tower structures owned and operated by
31 an electric utility as defined in RCW 80.80.010;

32 (c) Any structure for which the primary purpose is to support
33 telecommunications equipment, such as equipment for amateur radio and
34 broadcast radio and television services regulated by the federal
35 communications commission;

36 (d) Any guyed tower that is within fifty feet of a structure or
37 vegetation of equal or greater height; and

1 (e) Any guyed tower that is attached to a large mobile motorized
2 machine with a large visible base equipped with wheels, tracks, or
3 skids and with winches and utilized to lift or pull heavy loads, such
4 as a tower used to yard logs.

5 (5) A person who violates a provision of this section is guilty of
6 a misdemeanor.

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