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SENATE BILL 6054

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Hobbs, Schoesler, Cleveland, Rivers, King, Dammeier, Bailey, Hatfield, and Parlette

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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, any temporary or  
14 permanent guyed tower twenty-five feet or more in height that is  
15 located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town on land  
16 that is primarily rural or undeveloped or used for agricultural  
17 purposes, or that is primarily desert, and where such guyed tower's  
18 appearance is not otherwise governed by state or federal law, rule, or

1 regulation, must be lighted, marked, and painted or otherwise  
2 constructed to be visible in clear air during daylight hours from a  
3 distance of not less than two thousand feet. Guyed towers are required  
4 to be in accordance with the following:

5 (a) Guyed towers must be painted in seven equal alternating bands  
6 of aviation orange and white. The alternating bands must begin with  
7 orange at the top of the tower and end with orange at the base.

8 (b) Guyed towers must have a flashing light at the top of the  
9 tower. The light must be visible in clear air, with the naked eye,  
10 from a distance of two thousand feet when flashing. Such a light must  
11 also be visible with night vision goggles.

12 (c) The surface area under the footprint of the tower and six feet  
13 beyond the outer tower anchors must have a contrasting appearance with  
14 any surrounding vegetation.

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

17 (e) Guyed towers must have a seven foot long safety sleeve at each  
18 anchor point and must extend from the anchor point along each guy wire  
19 attached to the anchor point.

20 (2) Any guyed tower that was erected prior to the effective date of  
21 this section must be marked as required by this section within one year  
22 of the effective date of this section. Any guyed tower that is erected  
23 on or after the effective date of this section must be marked as  
24 required by this section no later than twenty-four hours prior to the  
25 time it is erected.

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

28 (a) "Guyed tower" means a tower that is supported in whole or in  
29 part by guy wires and ground anchors or other means of support besides  
30 the superstructure of the tower itself, towers used for military  
31 purposes excepted.

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

34 (c) "Temporary or permanent guyed tower" means a guyed tower  
35 erected and standing for any period of time whatsoever.

36 (4) This section does not apply to power poles or structures owned  
37 and operated by an electric utility as defined in RCW 80.80.010 or any

1 structure the primary purpose of which is to support telecommunications  
2 equipment, such as amateur radio services regulated by the federal  
3 communications commission.

4 (5) This section does not apply to guyed towers within fifty feet  
5 of a higher or equal height structure or vegetation.

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

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