
HOUSE BILL 1171

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Orwall, Fitzgibbon, Gregerson, Tarleton, Pollet,
and Santos

Read first time 01/12/17. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to directing the completion of a study of certain
2 environmental impacts, including ultrafine particulate emissions,
3 associated with aircraft traffic in areas impacted by airport
4 operations; adding a new section to chapter 70.94 RCW; and providing
5 an expiration date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.94
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The department of commerce, in consultation with the
10 department of health and the department of ecology, is directed to
11 complete a study by September 1, 2021, regarding air quality
12 implications of air traffic at the international airport in
13 Washington with the highest number of total annual departures and
14 arrivals.

15 (2) The study must include two phases:

16 (a) The first phase must consist of an assessment, to be
17 completed by the University of Washington school of public health, of
18 the concentrations of ultrafine particulate matter in areas
19 surrounding and directly impacted by air traffic generated by the
20 airport. This assessment component of the study is the highest

1 priority, and must be completed by September 1, 2019. The assessment
2 must:

3 (i) Monitor and evaluate the concentrations and characteristics
4 of ultrafine particulate matter in areas impacted by high volumes of
5 airport traffic, including the patterns of spatial dispersion of
6 ultrafine particulate matter. To the extent practicable, the
7 assessment must attempt to distinguish between ultrafine particulate
8 matter that is attributable to aircraft sources and ultrafine
9 particulate matter that originates with other sources; and

10 (ii) Compare concentrations of ultrafine particulate matter in
11 areas surrounding or directly impacted by high volumes of airport
12 traffic against concentrations of ultrafine particulate matter in
13 locations in the ambient environment that share similar
14 characteristics, but that are not surrounding or directly impacted by
15 high volumes of airport traffic.

16 (b) The second phase of the study, which the department of
17 commerce must initiate contingent upon the completion of the first
18 phase of the study, consists of:

19 (i) An analysis of options to reduce or mitigate emissions of
20 ultrafine particulate matter from aircraft, including but not limited
21 to the use of alternative fuel sources or particulate filters by
22 aircraft. In evaluating emission reduction or mitigation options, the
23 department of commerce must consider the anticipated costs and
24 feasibility of each option;

25 (ii) An analysis of the rates of exposure to ultrafine
26 particulate matter by low-income residents, communities of color, and
27 other communities that may be disproportionately impacted by
28 ultrafine particulate matter pollution. This analysis must consider
29 public health data maintained by the department of health or local
30 health jurisdiction, to the extent such information is available;

31 (iii) An analysis of the scope of risks posed by ultrafine
32 particulate matter air pollution in communities adjacent to and
33 directly impacted by the airport and air traffic relative to the
34 risks posed by other types or sources of air pollution or other
35 pathways of exposure to pollutants in the environment; and

36 (iv) An analysis of other direct and indirect environmental
37 impacts to the areas surrounding the airport that are attributable to
38 increased volumes of air traffic, including noise pollution,
39 aesthetic impacts, and the loss of habitat.

1 (3) Consistent with RCW 43.01.036, the department of commerce
2 must report its findings from the first phase of the study to the
3 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019.
4 Consistent with RCW 43.01.036, the department of commerce must report
5 its updated findings from the second phase of the study to the
6 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2021. The
7 report must include:

8 (a) In the 2019 report, a summary of findings on the prevalence
9 of ultrafine particulate matter pollution in areas surrounding and
10 directly impacted by the airport;

11 (b) In the 2021 updated report, a summary of findings on the
12 health impacts of ultrafine particulate matter pollution in areas
13 surrounding and directly impacted by the airport; and

14 (c) In the 2021 updated report, recommendations to the
15 legislature regarding how to best mitigate impacts of ultrafine
16 particulate matter emissions, if necessary, while allowing for
17 continued growth of air traffic at the airport.

18 (4) This section expires June 30, 2022.

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