

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2295**

---

**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2018 Regular Session**

**By** House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Slatter, Fey, McBride, Dolan, Macri, and Doglio)

READ FIRST TIME 01/22/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to encouraging the use of electric or hybrid-  
2 electric aircraft for regional air travel; amending RCW 47.68.070;  
3 adding new sections to chapter 47.68 RCW; creating new sections; and  
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the  
7 prospect of transitioning from aircraft powered by burning fuel to  
8 aircraft powered at least partially by electrical propulsion promises  
9 a variety of economic, social, and environmental benefits, including:

10 (a) Reduced fuel costs that make expanded commercial service of  
11 smaller regional airports economically viable;

12 (b) Support for the type of dispersed and rural economic  
13 development already envisioned elsewhere in state policy, including  
14 through the state's participation in the western regional short-haul  
15 air transportation compact under chapter 81.96 RCW or similar types  
16 of multistate collaborative forums that currently exist through the  
17 northwest region national association of state aviation officials;

18 (c) Reduced traffic on state roads as a result of short-haul  
19 flights becoming price-competitive with driving;

1 (d) A redistribution of air traffic from overly busy hubs to  
2 airports dispersed across the state that would otherwise operate  
3 below capacity;

4 (e) Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from aircraft fuel use; and

5 (f) Reduced impacts on communities located adjacent to busy  
6 airport hubs from decreases in aircraft noise and emissions of  
7 conventional air pollutants.

8 (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to continue  
9 Washington's leading role in the aerospace industry by encouraging  
10 the development and adoption of aircraft whose propulsion is fully or  
11 partially powered by electricity.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.68  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) To support realization of the public benefits described in  
15 section 1 of this act, the department shall solicit input from the  
16 work group established in section 3 of this act and adopt goals for  
17 encouraging the use of electric or hybrid-electric aircraft in  
18 commercial air travel in Washington state. These goals shall consider  
19 the interests of industry and airports, and shall focus on maximizing  
20 growth in Washington state regional commercial air service travel.  
21 The work group shall develop specific, measurable goals for the years  
22 2030, 2040, and 2050, that reflect progressive and substantial  
23 increases in the utilization of electric and hybrid-electric  
24 commercial aircraft.

25 (2) By January 1, 2025, and every two years thereafter, the  
26 department must submit a report to the legislature consistent with  
27 RCW 43.01.036 describing the state's progress towards achieving the  
28 goals developed by the work group established in section 3 of this  
29 act.

30 (3) By 2020, the department must require commercial service  
31 airports and airlines operating in Washington state to track, record,  
32 and report to the department annually the total number of operations,  
33 miles flown, and number of passengers on aircraft that are powered at  
34 least partially by electrical propulsion systems for commercial  
35 service flights.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.68  
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1)(a) The department must convene a work group to analyze the  
2 state of the electrically powered aircraft industry and current  
3 infrastructure to develop a sustainable plan for achieving the goals  
4 developed by the work group as described in section 1 of this act.  
5 The chair of the work group may be a consultant specializing in  
6 aeronautics, and the work group must include representation from the  
7 electric aircraft industry, the aircraft manufacturing industry, the  
8 electric utility districts, the battery industry, the department of  
9 commerce, the department of transportation aviation division, the  
10 airlines pilots association, the aviation caucus, a primary airport  
11 representing an airport association, and the airline industry. The  
12 work group may include other members at the discretion of the  
13 department.

14 (b) The work group must consider, at a minimum, and make  
15 recommendations on the feasibility of electric or hybrid-electric  
16 flight given federal aviation administration certification  
17 requirements, the rate at which battery technology is advancing, the  
18 necessary infrastructure requirements at primary airports, whether  
19 industry incentives are required and feasible, possible public-  
20 private partnerships, impacts to revenues generated from aviation  
21 fuel sales, educational requirements for maintaining electric or  
22 hybrid-electric powered aircraft, whether or not additional homeland  
23 security checkpoints would be required, the public perception of the  
24 technology, cost comparison between the use of fossil fuels versus  
25 electric or hybrid-electric engines in powering aircraft, and  
26 policies needed to facilitate electric or hybrid-electric powered  
27 aircraft use for commercial air travel in Washington state. The work  
28 group must submit a report with its findings and recommendations to  
29 the transportation committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019.  
30 The chair of the work group must provide an interim report to the  
31 transportation committees of the legislature by December 1, 2018.

32 (2) This section expires July 1, 2020.

33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 47.68.070 and 1984 c 7 s 344 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 The department has general supervision over aeronautics within  
36 this state. It is empowered and directed to encourage, foster, and  
37 assist in the development and sustainment of aeronautics in this  
38 state, including aeronautics involving electrically powered aircraft,  
39 and to encourage the establishment of airports and air navigation

1 facilities. It shall cooperate with and assist the federal  
2 government, the municipalities of this state, and other persons in  
3 the development of aeronautics, including aeronautics involving  
4 electrically powered aircraft, and shall seek to coordinate the  
5 aeronautical activities of these bodies and persons. Municipalities  
6 are authorized to cooperate with the department in the development of  
7 aeronautics and aeronautical facilities in this state.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act may be known and cited as the  
9 linking communities by encouraging regional aircraft electrification  
10 act or known and cited as the LINK-AIR act.

--- END ---