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SENATE BILL 5225

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Miloscia, Saldaña, Kuderer, and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/17/17. Referred to Committee on Energy,  
Environment & Telecommunications.

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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