

**HB 1397** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Transportation

**NOT CONSIDERED 12/23/2019**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (f) Reduced impacts on communities located adjacent to busy  
22 airport hubs from decreases in aircraft noise and emissions of  
23 conventional air pollutants; and

24 (g) Support the expansion of aerospace manufacturing.

25 (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to continue  
26 Washington's leading role in the aerospace industry by encouraging  
27 the development and adoption of aircraft whose propulsion is fully or  
28 partially powered by electricity that may be generated from hydrogen  
29 fuel cells.

30 (3) It is also the intent of the legislature for the department  
31 of transportation to reconvene the electric aircraft work group  
32 initially created in the 2018 transportation budget to continue to

1 study the state of the electrically powered aircraft industry and  
2 assess infrastructure needs related to the deployment of electric or  
3 hybrid-electric aircraft for commercial air travel in Washington  
4 state.

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

7 (1) The department must convene a work group to study the state  
8 of the electrically powered aircraft industry and assess  
9 infrastructure needs related to the deployment of electric or hybrid-  
10 electric aircraft that may use hydrogen fuel cells, for commercial  
11 air travel in Washington state.

12 (2) The chair of the work group may be a consultant specializing  
13 in aeronautics. The work group must include, but is not limited to,  
14 representation from the electric aircraft industry, the aircraft  
15 manufacturing industry, electric utility districts, the battery  
16 industry, the hydrogen fuel cell industry, the department of  
17 commerce, the department of transportation aviation division, the  
18 airline pilots association, a primary airport representing an airport  
19 association, and the airline industry. The work group may include  
20 other members at the discretion of the department.

21 (3) The study must include, but is not limited to:

22 (a) Infrastructure requirements necessary to facilitate electric  
23 aircraft operations at airports;

24 (b) Potential economic and public benefits including, but not  
25 limited to, the direct and indirect impact on the number of  
26 manufacturing and service jobs and the wages from those jobs in  
27 Washington state;

28 (c) Potential incentives for industry in the manufacturing and  
29 operation of electric aircraft for regional air travel;

30 (d) Educational and workforce requirements for manufacturing and  
31 maintaining electric aircraft;

32 (e) Demand and forecast for electric aircraft use to include  
33 expected timeline of the aircraft entering the market given federal  
34 aviation administration certification requirements;

35 (f) Identification of up to six airports in Washington state that  
36 may benefit from a pilot program once an electrically propelled  
37 aircraft for commercial use becomes available; and

38 (g) Recommendations to further the advancement of the  
39 electrification of aircraft for regional commercial use within

1 Washington state, including specific, measurable goals for the years  
2 2030, 2040, and 2050 that reflect progressive and substantial  
3 increases in the utilization of electric and hybrid-electric  
4 commercial aircraft that may use hydrogen fuel cells.

5 (4) The work group must submit a report and accompanying  
6 recommendations to the transportation committees of the legislature  
7 by November 15, 2020. By February 15, 2021, and every two years  
8 thereafter, the department must provide a progress report on any  
9 efforts to implement the recommendations to the transportation  
10 committees of the legislature consistent with RCW 43.01.036.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.68.070 and 1984 c 7 s 344 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 The department has general supervision over aeronautics within  
14 this state. It is empowered and directed to encourage, foster, and  
15 assist in the development and sustainment of aeronautics in this  
16 state, including aeronautics involving electrically powered aircraft  
17 that may include hydrogen fuel cells, and to encourage the  
18 establishment of airports and air navigation facilities. It shall  
19 cooperate with and assist the federal government, the municipalities  
20 of this state, and other persons in the development of aeronautics,  
21 including aeronautics involving electrically powered aircraft that  
22 may include hydrogen fuel cells, and shall seek to coordinate the  
23 aeronautical activities of these bodies and persons. Municipalities  
24 are authorized to cooperate with the department in the development of  
25 aeronautics and aeronautical facilities in this state.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the  
27 linking communities by encouraging regional aircraft electrification  
28 act or LINK-AIR act."

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29 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "travel;" strike the  
30 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 47.68.070; adding a  
31 new section to chapter 47.68 RCW; and creating new sections."

EFFECT: Adds language indicating electric aircraft, which may use hydrogen fuel cells are part of the electric aircraft work group and related work products. Adds a representative of the hydrogen fuel cell industry to the electric aircraft work group. The department's general supervision over aeronautics is modified to include aeronautics involving electrically powered aircraft, which may include hydrogen fuel cells.

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