
HOUSE BILL 1990

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Ryu, Reed, Ormsby, and Donaghy

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1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington state aerial imagery program;
2 adding new sections to chapter 43.105 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that aerial
6 imagery is a critically important tool that has wide applications in
7 making governmental decisions in a variety of settings, including air
8 quality monitoring, property value assessments, disaster recovery,
9 economic development, emergency management, forestry and forest
10 management, law enforcement, long-term planning, near-term planning,
11 public health, public safety, shoreline management, site selection,
12 transportation infrastructure, and utility infrastructure. The use of
13 aerial imagery has an aggregate benefit of \$159 million per year.

14 (2) The legislature also finds that current statewide imagery
15 services offers a licensed six-inch orthoimagery product. Local
16 governments, state agencies, special purpose districts, and tribal
17 governments that use aerial imaging data often purchase it
18 independently, resulting in multiple payments for similar data. The
19 data is purchased based on availability and not on criteria important
20 to the governmental agencies, such as time of year. In 2022, the
21 legislature commissioned a study to assess a more cost-effective way

1 to purchase cutting-edge aerial imagery at the state level, which
2 would allow individual jurisdictions that use aerial imagery to
3 acquire such data from the state to conduct business, protect
4 property, assist citizens, conduct emergency planning, and respond to
5 disasters. The legislature finds that for every \$1.00 invested in
6 aerial imagery, there is an \$8.80 biannual benefit and a \$7.35 return
7 on investment over six years.

8 (3) The legislature also finds that the use of aerial imagery
9 services by local governments, state agencies, special purpose
10 districts, and tribal governments will continue to become more
11 prevalent. As use of aerial imagery increases, it is important for
12 the consolidated technology services agency to provide aerial imagery
13 services to local governments, state agencies, special purpose
14 districts, and tribal governments, and to continue to evaluate how
15 the privacy rights of Washingtonians might best be protected. The
16 legislature intends for the agency to implement the recommendations
17 of the aerial imagery study conducted by the department of commerce
18 pursuant to chapter 261, Laws of 2022.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The agency shall establish a
20 Washington state aerial imagery program to provide aerial imagery
21 services to local governments, state agencies, special purpose
22 districts, and tribal governments.

23 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
24 specific purpose, the agency, in consultation with the department of
25 commerce, shall establish the Washington state aerial imagery program
26 through a phased approach.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** During the initial phase of the Washington
28 state aerial imagery program, anticipated to take one year after the
29 program is established, the agency must:

30 (1) Develop a plan to control aerial imagery characteristics,
31 including imagery specifications to ensure the spatial accuracy of
32 the captured images and acquisition of the aerial imagery viewing
33 software;

34 (2) Hire staff to administer the program including, but not
35 limited to, an aerial imagery program manager, technical support,
36 tribal coordinator, and community relations coordinator;

37 (3) Select one or more vendors which can meet the requirements in
38 section 4 of this act, after the agency conducts an industry review

1 process to ensure vendor requirements are realistic, feasible, and
2 biddable; and

3 (4) Conduct a formal privacy threshold analysis. If the formal
4 privacy threshold analysis identifies personally identifiable
5 information in the aerial images, the agency must conduct a privacy
6 impact assessment and share the results with the appropriate
7 legislative committees.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The agency must implement the Washington
9 state aerial imagery program by:

10 (1) Entering into a contract with a minimum term of four years
11 and a maximum term of six years with one or more vendors that:

12 (a) Collects aerial images meeting the minimum technical
13 specifications in this section;

14 (b) Allows alternating the collection of aerial images during
15 leaf-on or leaf-off seasons;

16 (c) Provides the option for local governments, state agencies,
17 special purpose districts, and tribal governments to buy-up derived
18 products or enhanced imagery at reduced rates; and

19 (d) Provides the agency with discretion to use the images in
20 perpetuity;

21 (2) Providing aerial images that meet the following minimum
22 technical specifications:

23 (a) Aerial images must include:

24 (i) Six-inch ground separation distance (GSD) orthoimagery with
25 four-band imagery statewide;

26 (ii) Three-inch ground separation distance (GSD) orthoimagery
27 with four-band imagery, within urban growth areas and urban
28 corridors;

29 (iii) Six-inch oblique air photos with three-band imagery
30 statewide;

31 (iv) Three-inch oblique air photos with three-band imagery,
32 within urban growth areas and urban corridors;

33 (v) Stereo pairs of orthoimagery;

34 (vi) Oblique air photo viewing tools or compatibility for
35 measurement and calculations; and

36 (vii) Compatibility with software systems such as geographic
37 information systems, computer assisted mass appraisal, and computer-
38 aided design; and

1 (b) Aerial images shall be collected no less frequently than
2 every two years;

3 (3) Allowing local governments, state agencies, special purpose
4 districts, and tribal governments access to the aerial images without
5 charge;

6 (4) Acquiring sufficient software and infrastructure for storing,
7 distributing, viewing, and using the aerial images;

8 (5) Creating and maintaining a statewide control network that
9 provides spatial and image quality control for planimetric mapping
10 purposes in populated areas and general mapping purposes in the
11 remaining areas of the state;

12 (6) Conducting a formal privacy threshold analysis every five
13 years or when technical specifications are substantially changed. If
14 the formal privacy threshold analysis identifies personally
15 identifiable information in the aerial images, the agency must
16 conduct a privacy impact assessment and share the results with the
17 appropriate legislative committees; and

18 (7) Developing a process to use aerial images of tribal lands
19 through collaboration with representatives of tribal governments.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The agency must provide a report to the
21 legislature every five years, beginning in 2030, reviewing existing
22 technology, providing a cost-benefit analysis of aerial imagery
23 services, summarizing the formal privacy threshold analysis, and
24 identifying any recommended modifications to the Washington state
25 aerial imagery program.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The statewide imagery services account
27 is created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent
28 only after appropriation.

29 (2) Any amounts appropriated by the legislature to the account,
30 private contributions, or any other source directed to the account,
31 must be deposited into the account. Funds from sources outside the
32 state, from private contributions, federal contributions, or other
33 sources, may be directed to the specific purposes of the Washington
34 state aerial imagery program.

35 (3) The legislature may appropriate moneys in the account only
36 for the purposes of sections 2 through 5 of this act, the Washington
37 state aerial imagery program.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** For the purposes of sections 2 through 6
2 of this act, the following definitions apply:

3 (1) "Aerial imagery services" means digital services that provide
4 orthoimagery or oblique air photo images that can be used by
5 software.

6 (2) "Oblique air photo image" means an air photo taken with the
7 camera axis at a 35 to 50 degree angle to the surface of the earth.

8 (3) "Orthoimagery" means vertical photos seamed together and
9 spatially connected.

10 (4) "Special purpose district" has the same meaning as in RCW
11 36.96.010.

12 (5) "Tribal government" means the governing body of an Indian
13 tribe as defined in RCW 43.376.010.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 7 of this act are each
15 added to chapter 43.105 RCW.

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