
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1969

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Burnett, Low, Griffey, Graham, Dent, Ley, Volz, Schmidt, Berg, Schmick, Leavitt, Klicker, Keaton, Eslick, and Barkis)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to the law enforcement aviation support grant
2 program; adding a new section to chapter 38.52 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the amounts appropriated for this specific
8 purpose, the department shall develop and implement a law enforcement
9 aviation support grant program for the purpose of providing financial
10 assistance to law enforcement aviation support units.

11 (2) The department shall utilize a statewide association of law
12 enforcement executives to identify and recognize local law
13 enforcement rotary wing aviation support units that offer aviation
14 support to any jurisdiction in the state reachable by their aviation
15 support unit whenever an aircraft is available, without any financial
16 obligation on behalf of the requesting jurisdiction. For purposes of
17 this section, refueling is not considered a financial obligation.

18 (3) The department shall equally distribute 50 percent of the
19 amounts appropriated for this program each fiscal year to local law
20 enforcement rotary wing aviation support units recognized pursuant to
21 subsection (2) of this section. Funding provided pursuant to this

1 subsection must be used to maintain and operate rotary wing aviation
2 support units including, but not limited to, pilot and crew costs,
3 aircraft maintenance, upgrades, acquisition, insurance, fuel,
4 training, and any other reasonable and necessary expense associated
5 with operating an aviation support unit.

6 (4) Of the amounts remaining each fiscal year, the department
7 must make available for local law enforcement rotary wing aviation
8 support units recognized pursuant to subsection (2) of this section
9 to submit and be reimbursed for all costs associated with search and
10 rescue missions or search and rescue training missions conducted by
11 the unit, regardless of where the search and rescue mission took
12 place. Reimbursable costs include, but are not limited to, fuel
13 costs, maintenance costs, and pilot and crew costs. Depreciation
14 costs are not reimbursable expenses under this subsection.

15 (5) Any amounts remaining at the conclusion of each fiscal year,
16 after local law enforcement rotary wing aviation support units
17 recognized pursuant to subsection (2) of this section have had
18 reasonable opportunity to submit any allowable unreimbursed search
19 and rescue mission costs, must be awarded to the aviation section of
20 the Washington state patrol.

21 (6) Funds awarded pursuant to this section must be used to
22 supplement, not supplant, existing local funding for aviation support
23 units.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of
25 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
26 provided by June 30, 2025, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
27 act is null and void.

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