

State Aviation Search and Rescue Program

ESHB 2190, Sec. 204(5) directs the Joint Transportation Committee to convene a study group to evaluate the most appropriate organization for the aviation search and rescue (SAR) program, currently operating from the Washington State Department of Transportation. The Committee will issue a report of its findings by December 14, 2012, to include the following information:

1. Where should aviation search and rescue operations be located to provide the maximum benefit for these searches?
2. How should the duplication of services and training be addressed?
3. Is the current structure the best use of state and federal funding?
4. If aviation search and rescue is relocated, what should be the source of funding?

The study group will meet in Olympia, probably two times. Representatives of the following organizations will be invited to participate:

	Organization
1.	Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
2.	Washington Pilots Association
3.	Washington Air Search and Rescue
4.	Washington Wing of the Civil Air Patrol
5.	Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force
6.	WA State Department of Transportation
7.	Emergency Management Division, Military Department
8.	Washington State Patrol
9.	United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center
10.	Federal Aviation Administration

The meetings of the study group are open to the public. Organizations or persons other than those listed above are welcome to attend and may comment. Meeting materials will be posted to the JTC website and comments are welcome.

Study staff

JTC Project Lead/Back-Up: Gene Baxstrom, Mary Fleckenstein
House Transportation Committee: Jerry Long
Senate Transportation Committee: Hayley Gamble
Office of Financial Management: Alyson Cummings

Appropriation: Within existing funds
Report due date: December 14, 2012

Overall study approach

Outline the current situation

1. How the system works
 - a. Agencies: Local, State and Federal
 - b. Volunteer organizations
2. Responsibilities of each agency
3. Budget
 - a. How much and funding sources
 - b. FTEs, and their responsibilities – for Aviation SAR and other responsibilities
4. What physical resources do these agencies have
5. How do agencies interact with each other
6. What works well with the current system
7. What are the concerns about the current system
8. Identify any duplication of services and training

Outline proposed alternatives

1. What alternative locations are there for the Aviation SAR mission?
 - a. Identify pros and cons of each alternative, including costs and FTEs, funding source, and physical location of assets, statutory or other constraints, and other relevant information
2. If a change in responsibilities among agencies is warranted, identify the following
 - a. How this would increase the benefit from these searches
 - b. How this would improve the use of state and federal funds, including addressing any identified duplication of services and training
 - c. Costs and FTEs
 - d. Funding source
 - e. Physical location of assets
 - f. Statutory, administrative changes needed to implement the alternative
 - g. Timeline for shift

Next steps

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| 1. April and May | Appoint organization representatives |
| 2. April and May | Staff to meet with organizations for background |
| 3. May and June | Develop background materials for first meeting |
| 4. Mid-July | Distribute materials to meeting participants. |

Potential study meeting dates

1. Late July
2. Early October
3. Late October-Early November (if needed)