

WSDOT | AVIATION

WASHINGTON STATE IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR AIRCRAFT & DRONE OPERATORS

The Washington State Legislature has passed House Bill 2711 (HB 2711), which includes increases to aircraft and drone taxes and aircraft registration fees.

WHAT'S CHANGING?

HB 2711 repeals the previously proposed 10% luxury aircraft tax and replaces it with increases to existing aviation-related taxes and fees.

AVIATION FUEL TAX INCREASE

CURRENT **18¢** per gallon → NEW RATE **25¢** per gallon

Effective date: November 1, 2026

AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION FEE INCREASE

CURRENT **$15** per year → NEW RATE **$30** per year

Effective date: January 1, 2027

AIRCRAFT AND DRONE TAX INCREASE

Annual aircraft excise tax will increase under a revised fee schedule, including a new category for commercial UAS.

Effective date: January 1, 2027

ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT: Starting January 1, 2028, registration fees and excise taxes will be adjusted annually by 2%.

WHO IT AFFECTS?

These changes may impact a broad range of aviation stakeholders, including general aviation, business aviation, helicopter operators, and unmanned aircraft system (UAS/drone) operators depending on aircraft registration applicability and operational fuel usage.

WHY THE CHANGE?

State legislators indicated the revised approach was intended to maintain transportation revenue while addressing concerns raised by the aviation community regarding the economic impacts of the previously adopted luxury aircraft tax.

The legislation also creates the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Airport Infrastructure Account in the State Treasury to support investments in airport infrastructure related to sustainable aviation fuel development and use.

STAY INFORMED: Operators are encouraged to review the bill language and monitor implementation timelines to understand how these fee and tax adjustments may affect future operational costs and aircraft registrations in Washington State.

REVIEW THE BILL

Read the full text of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2711; Chapter 255, Laws of 2026; 69th Legislature, 2026 Regular Session.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION

Please share this information with other operators and aviation partners.

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT FEE SCHEDULE

Type of Aircraft	Excise Tax 1	Excise Tax 2 (increase)	New Total Excise Tax
Single engine fixed wing	$50	$70	$120
Small multi-engine fixed wing	$65	$155	$220
Large multi-engine fixed wing	$80	$140	$220
Turboprop multi-engine fixed wing	$100	$370	$470
Turbojet multi-engine fixed wing	$125	$1,095	$1,220
Helicopter	$75	$145	$220
Sailplane	$20	$100	$120
Lighter than air	$20	$100	$120
Home built	$20	$100	$120
Commercial unpiloted aircraft systems (commercial drones)	$0	$120	$120

WEIGHT-BASED FEE SCHEDULE

Gross Maximum Takeoff Weight	Excise Tax 1	Excise Tax 2 (increase)	New Total Excise Tax
Less than 4,001 lbs.	$500	$500	$1,000
4,001–6,000 lbs.	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000
6,001–8,000 lbs.	$2,000	$2,000	$4,000
8,001–9,000 lbs.	$3,000	$3,000	$6,000
9,001–12,500 lbs.	$4,000	$4,000	$8,000

For questions regarding aircraft and drones, please email wsdotaviation@wsdot.wa.gov.

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