

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 125

BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
3 TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE A STUDY OF INTRASTATE
4 COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE IN THE STATE OF IDAHO AND TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM,
5 VIABLE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE INTRASTATE COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE IN
6 THE STATE.

7 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho is 479 miles long and 305 miles wide, spans
9 two time zones, and covers an area from the Pacific Northwest to the Snake
10 River Plain and the Rocky Mountains; and

11 WHEREAS, Idaho's vast distances, rugged landscapes, and expansive
12 wilderness areas present unique transportation challenges; and

13 WHEREAS, these challenges have also led to many positive innovations,
14 including with respect to air travel; and

15 WHEREAS, air travel, ranging from single-engine charters accessing
16 backcountry areas to commercial airline services connecting population cen-
17 ters, has provided essential services and economic benefits to the citizens
18 of Idaho for more than seventy years; and

19 WHEREAS, Idaho is one of the fastest growing states in the nation and
20 yet, as the seventh least-densely populated, faces significant challenges
21 with respect to connecting its growing population and economic centers to
22 each other; and

23 WHEREAS, commercial airline services that have historically connected
24 the population centers of Idaho to each other have either completely stopped
25 or have greatly reduced their services for various reasons, including
26 changes in airline industry business models and federal regulations; and

27 WHEREAS, today, commercial airline service between Idaho's population
28 centers uses routes that take passengers outside the State of Idaho, result-
29 ing in a decrease in intrastate commerce and an increase in travel time and
30 expense for Idaho citizens as well as economic loss to the state; and

31 WHEREAS, coordinated efforts between the state, local communities, and
32 industry to improve commercial air service in Idaho are essential to the re-
33 cruitment, retention, and growth of businesses, research institutions, and
34 higher education in the State of Idaho.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
36 Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of
37 Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is autho-
38 rized to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of intrastate
39 commercial air service in the State of Idaho and to develop a long-term,
40 viable strategy for sustainable intrastate commercial air service in the
41 state. The committee shall be composed of one voting member to be appointed
42 by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one voting member to be ap-

1 pointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to serve as cochairs
2 of the committee.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nine (9) nonlegislative voting members
4 shall be appointed by the cochairs of the committee. Appointments to the
5 committee shall include, to the extent practicable, one (1) member of the
6 Idaho Transportation Department, three (3) members of the Idaho business
7 community, two (2) public members, one (1) member from the commercial air-
8 line industry, and two (2) members who are Idaho airport directors. To the
9 extent practicable, these appointments shall include representation from
10 each county served by an airport with commercial air service. Nonlegisla-
11 tive members of the committee shall not be reimbursed from legislative funds
12 for per diem, mileage, or other expenses.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is also authorized to retain
14 the services of a consultant or analyst, with the prior approval of the Pres-
15 ident Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representa-
16 tives, who is familiar with commercial airline service and who can provide
17 necessary economic or other research that can assist the committee and the
18 Legislature in making an informed decision on this important topic.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings,
20 recommendations, and proposed legislation, if any, to the First Regular
21 Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature.