
HOUSE BILL 2390

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Kristiansen and Pearson

Read first time 03/15/2007. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to reprioritizing transportation funding for state
2 route number 2; and amending RCW 46.68.290.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.68.290 and 2006 c 337 s 5 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The transportation partnership account is hereby created in the
7 state treasury. All distributions to the account from RCW 46.68.090
8 must be deposited into the account. Money in the account may be spent
9 only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account must be used
10 only for projects or improvements identified as 2005 transportation
11 partnership projects or improvements in the omnibus transportation
12 appropriations act, including any principal and interest on bonds
13 authorized for the projects or improvements.

14 (2) The legislature intends to reprioritize allocation of funding
15 for the following highway improvement and safety projects on state
16 route number 2:

17 (a) State route number 204 to milepost 5.02 - \$33,280,000;

18 (b) Milepost 5.02 to Campbell Road (92nd St. Southeast) -
19 \$40,950,000;

1 (c) Campbell Road (92nd St. Southeast) to Monroe - \$139,050,000;

2 (d) State route number 522 interchange to Monroe east of city
3 limits - \$33,640,000;

4 (e) City of Monroe east of city limits to Fern Bluff Road -
5 \$15,230,000;

6 (f) Fern Bluff Road to city of Sultan west of city limits -
7 \$46,080,000;

8 (g) City of Sultan west of city limits to Fir Road - \$55,230,000.

9 (3) The legislature finds that:

10 (a) Citizens demand and deserve accountability of transportation-
11 related programs and expenditures. Transportation-related programs
12 must continuously improve in quality, efficiency, and effectiveness in
13 order to increase public trust;

14 (b) Transportation-related agencies that receive tax dollars must
15 continuously improve the way they operate and deliver services so
16 citizens receive maximum value for their tax dollars; and

17 (c) Fair, independent, comprehensive performance audits of
18 transportation-related agencies overseen by the elected state auditor
19 are essential to improving the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness
20 of the state's transportation system.

21 ~~((+3))~~ (4) For purposes of chapter 314, Laws of 2005:

22 (a) "Performance audit" means an objective and systematic
23 assessment of a state agency or agencies or any of their programs,
24 functions, or activities by the state auditor or designee in order to
25 help improve agency efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability.
26 Performance audits include economy and efficiency audits and program
27 audits.

28 (b) "Transportation-related agency" means any state agency, board,
29 or commission that receives funding primarily for transportation-
30 related purposes. At a minimum, the department of transportation, the
31 transportation improvement board or its successor entity, the county
32 road administration board or its successor entity, and the traffic
33 safety commission are considered transportation-related agencies. The
34 Washington state patrol and the department of licensing shall not be
35 considered transportation-related agencies under chapter 314, Laws of
36 2005.

37 ~~((+4))~~ (5) Within the authorities and duties under chapter 43.09
38 RCW, the state auditor shall establish criteria and protocols for

1 performance audits. Transportation-related agencies shall be audited
2 using criteria that include generally accepted government auditing
3 standards as well as legislative mandates and performance objectives
4 established by state agencies. Mandates include, but are not limited
5 to, agency strategies, timelines, program objectives, and mission and
6 goals as required in RCW 43.88.090.

7 ~~((+5+))~~ (6) Within the authorities and duties under chapter 43.09
8 RCW, the state auditor may conduct performance audits for
9 transportation-related agencies. The state auditor shall contract with
10 private firms to conduct the performance audits.

11 ~~((+6+))~~ (7) The audits may include:

12 (a) Identification of programs and services that can be eliminated,
13 reduced, consolidated, or enhanced;

14 (b) Identification of funding sources to the transportation-related
15 agency, to programs, and to services that can be eliminated, reduced,
16 consolidated, or enhanced;

17 (c) Analysis of gaps and overlaps in programs and services and
18 recommendations for improving, dropping, blending, or separating
19 functions to correct gaps or overlaps;

20 (d) Analysis and recommendations for pooling information technology
21 systems used within the transportation-related agency, and evaluation
22 of information processing and telecommunications policy, organization,
23 and management;

24 (e) Analysis of the roles and functions of the transportation-
25 related agency, its programs, and its services and their compliance
26 with statutory authority and recommendations for eliminating or
27 changing those roles and functions and ensuring compliance with
28 statutory authority;

29 (f) Recommendations for eliminating or changing statutes, rules,
30 and policy directives as may be necessary to ensure that the
31 transportation-related agency carry out reasonably and properly those
32 functions vested in the agency by statute;

33 (g) Verification of the reliability and validity of transportation-
34 related agency performance data, self-assessments, and performance
35 measurement systems as required under RCW 43.88.090;

36 (h) Identification of potential cost savings in the transportation-
37 related agency, its programs, and its services;

38 (i) Identification and recognition of best practices;

1 (j) Evaluation of planning, budgeting, and program evaluation
2 policies and practices;

3 (k) Evaluation of personnel systems operation and management;

4 (l) Evaluation of purchasing operations and management policies and
5 practices;

6 (m) Evaluation of organizational structure and staffing levels,
7 particularly in terms of the ratio of managers and supervisors to
8 nonmanagement personnel; and

9 (n) Evaluation of transportation-related project costs, including
10 but not limited to environmental mitigation, competitive bidding
11 practices, permitting processes, and capital project management.

12 (~~(7)~~) (8) Within the authorities and duties under chapter 43.09
13 RCW, the state auditor must provide the preliminary performance audit
14 reports to the audited state agency for comment. The auditor also may
15 seek input on the preliminary report from other appropriate officials.
16 Comments must be received within thirty days after receipt of the
17 preliminary performance audit report unless a different time period is
18 approved by the state auditor. The final performance audit report
19 shall include the objectives, scope, and methodology; the audit
20 results, including findings and recommendations; the agency's response
21 and conclusions; and identification of best practices.

22 (~~(8)~~) (9) The state auditor shall provide final performance audit
23 reports to the citizens of Washington, the governor, the joint
24 legislative audit and review committee, the appropriate legislative
25 committees, and other appropriate officials. Final performance audit
26 reports shall be posted on the internet.

27 (~~(9)~~) (10) The audited transportation-related agency is
28 responsible for follow-up and corrective action on all performance
29 audit findings and recommendations. The audited agency's plan for
30 addressing each audit finding and recommendation shall be included in
31 the final audit report. The plan shall provide the name of the contact
32 person responsible for each action, the action planned, and the
33 anticipated completion date. If the audited agency does not agree with
34 the audit findings and recommendations or believes action is not
35 required, then the action plan shall include an explanation and
36 specific reasons.

37 The office of financial management shall require periodic progress
38 reports from the audited agency until all resolution has occurred. The

1 office of financial management is responsible for achieving audit
2 resolution. The office of financial management shall annually report
3 by December 31st the status of performance audit resolution to the
4 appropriate legislative committees and the state auditor. The
5 legislature shall consider the performance audit results in connection
6 with the state budget process.

7 The auditor may request status reports on specific audits or
8 findings.

9 ~~((+10+))~~ (11) For the period from July 1, 2005, until June 30,
10 2007, the amount of \$4,000,000 is appropriated from the transportation
11 partnership account to the state auditors office for the purposes of
12 subsections ~~((+2+))~~ (3) through ~~((+9+))~~ (10) of this section.

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