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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3096**

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**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session**

**By** House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Clibborn and McIntire; by request of Governor Gregoire)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1            AN ACT Relating to financing the state route number 520 bridge  
2 replacement project; adding new sections to chapter 47.56 RCW; creating  
3 new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the replacement  
6 of the vulnerable state route number 520 bridge is a matter of urgency  
7 for the safety of Washington's traveling public and the needs of the  
8 transportation system in central Puget Sound. The state route number  
9 520 bridge is forty-four years old and has a useful remaining life of  
10 between thirteen and eighteen years. While one hundred fifteen  
11 thousand vehicles travel on the bridge each day, there is an ever  
12 present likelihood that wind or an earthquake could suddenly destroy  
13 the bridge or render it unusable. Therefore, the state must develop a  
14 comprehensive approach to fund a state route number 520 bridge  
15 replacement to be constructed by 2018.

16            The legislature finds that the financial plan for the bridge  
17 assumes a current funding shortfall of up to two billion dollars. The  
18 legislature further finds that the bridge replacement project requires

1 funding from multiple revenue sources, including a partnership between  
2 the state and the users of the bridge.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.56 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) Following the submission of the report required in section 4 of  
6 this act, the department may seek authorization from the legislature to  
7 collect tolls on the existing state route number 520 bridge or on a  
8 replacement state route number 520 bridge.

9 (2) The schedule of toll charges must be established by the  
10 transportation commission and collected in a manner determined by the  
11 department.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.56 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14 The department shall work with the federal highways administration  
15 to determine the necessary actions for receiving federal authorization  
16 to toll the interstate 90 floating bridge. The department must  
17 periodically report the status of those discussions to the governor and  
18 the joint transportation committee.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The executive director of the Puget  
20 Sound regional council, the secretary of the department of  
21 transportation or his or her designee, and a member of the state  
22 transportation commission from King county shall form a state route  
23 number 520 tolling implementation committee.

24 (2) The committee must:

25 (a) Evaluate the potential diversion of traffic from state route  
26 number 520 to other parts of the transportation system, including state  
27 route number 522, when tolls are implemented on state route number 520;

28 (b) Evaluate the most advanced tolling technology to ensure an  
29 efficient and timely trip for users of the state route number 520  
30 bridge;

31 (c) Evaluate available active traffic management technology to  
32 determine the most effective options for technology that could manage  
33 congestion on the state route number 520 bridge;

1 (d) Explore opportunities to partner with the business community to  
2 reduce congestion and financially contribute to the state route number  
3 520 bridge replacement project;

4 (e) Conduct public work sessions and open houses to provide  
5 information to citizens, including users of the bridge and business and  
6 freight interests, regarding implementation of tolls on the state route  
7 number 520 bridge and solicit citizen views on the following items:

8 (i) Funding a portion of the state route number 520 bridge  
9 replacement project with tolls on the existing bridge;

10 (ii) Funding the state route number 520 bridge replacement project  
11 and improvements on the Interstate 90 bridge with a toll paid by  
12 drivers on both bridges;

13 (iii) Providing incentives and choices for users of the state route  
14 number 520 bridge replacement project to use transit and to carpool;  
15 and

16 (iv) Implementing variable tolling as a way to reduce congestion on  
17 the facility; and

18 (f) Provide a report to the governor and the legislature by January  
19 2009.

20 (3) The department of transportation shall provide staff support to  
21 the committee.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this act expires February 1,  
23 2009.

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