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SENATE BILL 5689

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker, Haugen, and Marr

Read first time 01/29/09. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to a transportation funding study by the joint  
2 transportation committee; creating new sections; and providing an  
3 expiration date.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The 2007 joint transportation committee  
6 study on long-term transportation financing, the national surface  
7 transportation infrastructure financing commission study, and other  
8 studies have concluded that existing sources of state and national  
9 long-term transportation funding are not sustainable. The studies  
10 recommend the enhanced use of tolling and other financial methods to  
11 serve as interim transitions leading to conversion to a mileage-based  
12 user fee.

13            (2) Transitioning to alternative transportation funding methods  
14 will be institutionally challenging. Further research and analysis of  
15 identifying and implementing alternative funding methods are needed to  
16 assist the legislature in developing mid-term and long-term  
17 transportation funding policy.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) Subject to the availability of amounts  
2 appropriated for this specific purpose, the joint transportation  
3 committee shall conduct a comprehensive research effort analyzing the  
4 feasibility and practicality of implementing mid-term and long-term  
5 funding methodologies identified in the 2007 long-term transportation  
6 financing study, as well as other approaches identified by the  
7 committee. The research and analysis must take into account existing  
8 and emerging policy objectives regarding funding, energy, environment,  
9 and mobility. The committee shall coordinate with the departments of  
10 transportation, licensing, ecology, and community, trade, and economic  
11 development to support the research and analysis as deemed necessary by  
12 the committee.

13        (2) The research must:

14        (a) Utilize existing state and national research to analyze  
15 relevant baseline data and trends. The data analysis must identify  
16 those characteristics of transportation and finance that influence  
17 alternative funding methods. The research must update and conduct  
18 original data analysis where existing research data is not adequate.  
19 The analysis must include, but is not limited to:

20        (i) Update data and financial forecasts relative to: Energy price  
21 and availability volatility; energy trends; vehicle characteristics and  
22 pool trends; usage; and environmental initiatives; and

23        (ii) Use characteristics and trends of: State and local  
24 transportation systems; rural and urban transportation systems; and  
25 mode.

26        (b) Use existing state and national research to assess funding  
27 methods with regard to implementation feasibility, practicality, and  
28 sustainability. The research must update and conduct original data  
29 analysis where existing research data is not adequate. The analysis of  
30 funding methods must include, but is not limited to:

31        (i) Relationship to funding, energy, environment, and mobility  
32 policy objectives;

33        (ii) Relationship to users and general population;

34        (iii) Simplicity and transparency;

35        (iv) Sustainability, revenue adequacy, and administration costs;

36        (v) Institutional requirements and governmental roles;

37        (vi) Technology; and

38        (vii) Privacy and equity.

1 (3) Performance and evaluation criteria must be developed to  
2 analyze alternative funding strategies. The criteria must take into  
3 account existing and emerging policy objectives regarding funding,  
4 energy, environment, and mobility.

5 (4) The committee shall develop planning level strategic funding  
6 alternatives strategies. The strategies must:

7 (a) Be developed to a planning level that allows for comparative  
8 analysis of alternatives based on the performance and evaluation  
9 criteria;

10 (b) Provide incremental options; and

11 (c) Include a scaled testing approach.

12 (5)(a) The research and analysis is intended to be an iterative  
13 process based on direction from the committee. The intent is to  
14 provide a series of research and analysis over the biennium to inform  
15 the discussion and help facilitate the development and possible  
16 implementations of alternative transportation funding methods.

17 (b) The activities and schedule of the research and analysis must  
18 be managed by the committee, which must set and approve the scope and  
19 schedule of the project.

20 (6) Baseline data and methods assessment must be completed by  
21 December 31, 2009.

22 (7) Performance criteria must be developed by June 30, 2010.

23 (8) Planning level strategic funding alternatives strategies must  
24 be completed by December 31, 2010.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires June 30, 2011.

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