
SENATE BILL 5796

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, King, and Shin

Read first time 02/14/11. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to public transportation systems; amending RCW
2 35.58.2795 and 35.58.2796; adding a new section to chapter 43.19 RCW;
3 and adding a new section to chapter 47.04 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35.58.2795 and 1994 c 158 s 6 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 By (~~April~~) September 1st of each year, the legislative authority
8 of each municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, and each regional
9 transit authority shall prepare a six-year transit development plan for
10 that calendar year and the ensuing five years. The program shall be
11 consistent with the comprehensive plans adopted by counties, cities,
12 and towns, pursuant to chapter 35.63, 35A.63, or 36.70 RCW, the
13 inherent authority of a first-class city or charter county derived from
14 its charter, or chapter 36.70A RCW. The program shall contain
15 information as to how the municipality intends to meet state and local
16 long-range priorities for public transportation, capital improvements,
17 significant operating changes planned for the system, and how the
18 municipality intends to fund program needs. The six-year plan for each
19 municipality and regional transit authority shall specifically set

1 forth those projects of regional significance for inclusion in the
2 transportation improvement program within that region. Each
3 municipality and regional transit authority shall file the six-year
4 program with the state department of transportation, the transportation
5 improvement board, and cities, counties, and regional planning councils
6 within which the municipality is located.

7 In developing its program, the municipality and the regional
8 transit authority shall consider those policy recommendations affecting
9 public transportation contained in the state transportation policy plan
10 approved by the state transportation commission and, where appropriate,
11 adopted by the legislature. The municipality shall conduct one or more
12 public hearings while developing its program and for each annual
13 update.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.58.2796 and 2005 c 319 s 101 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The department of transportation shall develop an annual report
17 summarizing the status of public transportation systems in the state
18 for the previous calendar year. By ~~((September))~~ December 1st of each
19 year, ~~((copies of))~~ the report ~~((shall be submitted))~~ must be made
20 available to the transportation committees of the legislature and to
21 each municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, and to individual
22 members of the municipality's legislative authority.

23 (2) To assist the department with preparation of the report, each
24 municipality shall file a system report by ~~((April))~~ September 1st of
25 each year with the state department of transportation identifying its
26 public transportation services for the previous calendar year and its
27 objectives for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of those
28 services. The system report shall address those items required for
29 each public transportation system in the department's report.

30 (3) The department report shall describe individual public
31 transportation systems, including contracted transportation services
32 and dial-a-ride services, and include a statewide summary of public
33 transportation issues and data. The descriptions shall include the
34 following elements and such other elements as the department deems
35 appropriate after consultation with the municipalities and the
36 transportation committees of the legislature:

1 ~~((1))~~ (a) Equipment and facilities, including vehicle replacement
2 standards;

3 ~~((2))~~ (b) Services and service standards;

4 ~~((3))~~ (c) Revenues, expenses, and ending balances, by fund
5 source;

6 ~~((4))~~ (d) Policy issues and system improvement objectives,
7 including community participation in development of those objectives
8 and how those objectives address statewide transportation priorities;

9 ~~((5))~~ (e) Operating indicators applied to public transportation
10 services, revenues, and expenses. Operating indicators shall include
11 operating cost per passenger trip, operating cost per revenue vehicle
12 service hour, passenger trips per revenue service hour, passenger trips
13 per vehicle service mile, vehicle service hours per employee, and
14 farebox revenue as a percent of operating costs.

15 (4) To the extent that information is available, the department
16 report must include descriptive information on any other modes of
17 public transportation, the impact of public transportation on
18 transportation system performance, and how public transportation helps
19 the state meet the transportation system policy goals described in RCW
20 47.04.280.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.19 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 New state facilities must be sited in areas adequately accessible
24 by transit service.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 47.04 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 The legislature recognizes the benefit that transit facilities
28 provide to motor vehicle traffic by facilitating the efficient
29 utilization in the operation of highways and reducing congestion and
30 hazardous driving conditions. The legislature further recognizes that
31 the Washington supreme court has identified these outcomes as
32 implicitly related to the specific highway purposes delineated in the
33 18th amendment to the state Constitution. As such, it is the intent of
34 the legislature that the department not charge state agencies airspace
35 leases for the use of highway right-of-way for transit facilities. For
36 purposes of this section, "transit facility" means all benches, kiosks,

1 lighting, waste receptacles, and shelters owned by a public
2 transportation system identified under RCW 82.14.045 and regional
3 transit authorities identified under chapter 81.112 RCW.

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