
HOUSE BILL 1814

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Ryu, Clibborn, Johnson, Angel, Freeman, Zeiger, Bergquist, Reykdal, Liias, Moeller, Morris, Farrell, and Fey

Read first time 02/11/13. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the agency council on coordinated
2 transportation; and adding a new chapter to Title 47 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington state
5 must review and recommend certification of local plans developed by
6 regional transportation planning organizations based on meeting federal
7 requirements. Currently, each regional transportation planning
8 organization must submit to the state an updated plan that includes
9 coordination elements, consistent with federal planning requirements.
10 In addition to federal planning requirements, transportation systems
11 for persons with special transportation needs should be operated as
12 efficiently as possible. Programs established by the legislature to
13 assist persons with special transportation needs should be accessed
14 with as much efficiency and coordination as possible.

15 The legislature further finds that the transportation needs of each
16 community are unique, and that transportation services may be improved
17 by establishing a system of statewide oversight that seeks input,
18 collaboration, and cooperation from and among all local service

1 providers, including public agencies, private organizations, and
2 community-based groups.

3 It is the intent of the legislature that public transportation
4 agencies, pupil transportation programs, private nonprofit
5 transportation providers, and other public agencies sponsoring programs
6 that require transportation services coordinate those transportation
7 services. Through coordination of transportation services, programs
8 will achieve increased efficiencies and will be able to provide more
9 rides to a greater number of persons with special transportation needs.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
11 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

12 (1) "Persons with special transportation needs" means those
13 persons, including their personal attendants, who because of physical
14 or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport
15 themselves or purchase transportation.

16 (2) "Special needs coordinated transportation" is transportation
17 for persons with special transportation needs that is developed through
18 a collaborative community process involving: Transportation providers;
19 human service programs and agencies; consumers; social, educational,
20 and health service providers; employer and business representatives;
21 employees and employee representatives; and other affected parties.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The agency council on coordinated
23 transportation is created. The purpose of the council is to advance
24 and improve accessibility to and coordination of special needs
25 transportation services statewide. The council is composed of fourteen
26 voting members, four nonvoting, legislative members, and such other
27 nonvoting members as may be determined by the council.

28 (2) The fourteen voting members are the superintendent of public
29 instruction or a designee, the secretary of transportation or a
30 designee, the director of the health care authority or a designee, and
31 eleven members appointed by the governor as follows:

32 (a) One representative from the office of the governor;

33 (b) Three persons who are consumers of special needs transportation
34 services, which must include:

35 (i) One person designated by the executive director of the
36 governor's committee on disability issues and employment; and

1 (ii) One person who is designated by the executive director of the
2 developmental disabilities council;

3 (c) One representative from the Washington association of pupil
4 transportation;

5 (d) One representative from the Washington state transit
6 association;

7 (e) One of the following:

8 (i) A representative from the community transportation association
9 of the Northwest; or

10 (ii) A representative from the community action council
11 association;

12 (f) One person who represents regional transportation planning
13 organizations and metropolitan planning organizations;

14 (g) One representative of brokers who provide nonemergency,
15 medically necessary trips to persons with special transportation needs
16 under the medicaid program administered by the health care authority;

17 (h) One representative from the Washington state department of
18 veterans affairs; and

19 (i) One representative of the state association of counties.

20 (3) The four nonvoting members are legislators as follows:

21 (a) Two members from the house of representatives, one from each of
22 the two largest caucuses, appointed by the speaker of the house of
23 representatives, including at least one member from the house of
24 representatives transportation committee or the house of
25 representatives appropriations committee; and

26 (b) Two members from the senate, one from each of the two largest
27 caucuses, appointed by the president of the senate, including at least
28 one member from the senate transportation committee or the senate ways
29 and means committee.

30 (4) Gubernatorial appointees of the council must serve two-year
31 terms. Members may not receive compensation for their service on the
32 council, but must be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses
33 incurred in performing their duties as members as set forth in RCW
34 43.03.220.

35 (5) The council must vote on an annual basis to elect one of its
36 voting members to serve as chair. The position of chair must rotate
37 among the represented agencies, associations, and interest groups at
38 least every two years. If the position of chair is vacated for any

1 reason, the secretary of transportation or the secretary's designee
2 must serve as acting chair until the next regular meeting of the
3 council, at which time the members will elect a chair.

4 (6) The council must periodically assess its membership to ensure
5 that there exists a balanced representation of persons with special
6 transportation needs and providers of special transportation needs
7 services. Recommendations for modifying the membership of the council
8 must be included in the council's biennial report to the legislature as
9 provided in section 6 of this act.

10 (7) The department shall provide necessary staff support for the
11 council as resources allow.

12 (8) The council may receive gifts, grants, or endowments from
13 public or private sources that are made from time to time, in trust or
14 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the council and
15 spend gifts, grants, or endowments or income from the public or private
16 sources according to their terms, unless the receipt of the gifts,
17 grants, or endowments violates RCW 42.17A.560.

18 (9) The meetings of the council must be open to the public, with
19 the agenda published in advance, and minutes kept and made available to
20 the public. The public notice of the meetings must indicate that
21 accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made available
22 upon request.

23 (10) All meetings of the council must be held in locations that are
24 readily accessible to public transportation, and must be scheduled for
25 times when public transportation is available.

26 (11) The council must make an effort to include presentations by
27 and work sessions including persons with special transportation needs.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) To assure implementation of an effective
29 system of coordinated transportation that meets the needs of persons
30 with special transportation needs, the agency council on coordinated
31 transportation must adopt a biennial work plan that must, at a minimum:

32 (a) Focus on projects that identify and address barriers in laws,
33 policies, and procedures;

34 (b) Focus on results;

35 (c) Identify and advocate for transportation system improvements
36 for persons with special transportation needs; and

1 (d) Focus on projects that the members of the council are willing
2 to donate time to, with an emphasis on projects that involve:

3 (i) Coordinated human services transportation plans;

4 (ii) Cost and ride sharing;

5 (iii) Performance measures;

6 (iv) Mobility management; and

7 (v) Addressing underserved populations.

8 (2) The council must, as necessary, convene work groups at the
9 state, regional, or local level to develop and implement coordinated
10 approaches to special needs transportation.

11 (3) To improve the service experienced by persons with special
12 transportation needs, the council must develop statewide guidelines for
13 customer complaint processes so that information about policies
14 regarding the complaint processes is available consistently and
15 consumers are appropriately educated about available options. To be
16 eligible for funding on or after January 1, 2008, organizations
17 applying for state paratransit/special needs grants as described in
18 section 226(1), chapter 370, Laws of 2006 must implement a process
19 following the guidelines established by the council.

20 (4) The council must represent the needs and interests of persons
21 with special transportation needs in statewide efforts for emergency
22 and disaster preparedness planning by advising the emergency management
23 council on how to address transportation needs for high-risk
24 individuals during and after disasters.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The agency council on coordinated
26 transportation must review and recommend certification of local plans
27 developed by regional transportation planning organizations based on
28 meeting federal requirements. Each regional transportation planning
29 organization must submit to the council an updated plan that includes
30 the elements, consistent with federal planning requirements, identified
31 by the council beginning July 1, 2015, and every four years thereafter.

32 Each regional transportation planning organization must submit to
33 the council every two years a prioritized regional human service and
34 transportation project list.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Based on the biennial work plan adopted by
36 the council pursuant to section 4 of this act and the available

1 resources of the members, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
2 agency council on coordinated transportation must submit a progress
3 report to the legislature by December 1, 2015, and every other year
4 thereafter. The report must describe the council's progress in
5 achieving its objectives and in attaining the applicable goals
6 identified in the council's biennial work plan and highlight any
7 problems encountered in achieving these goals. The information will
8 also be reported in a form established by the council.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act constitute
10 a new chapter in Title 47 RCW.

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