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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6420**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Heavey, Roach, Oke, Finkbeiner and Hochstatter)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to travel by public officers and employees;  
2 amending RCW 42.24.090 and 42.24.120; and adding a new section to  
3 chapter 42.04 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 42.04 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 First class and business class commercial air carrier  
8 accommodations may not be used by any state government officer, whether  
9 elected or appointed, and any state government employee who travels by  
10 commercial airlines in the discharge of the duties of his or her  
11 position or employment at public expense unless otherwise required as  
12 a reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities or where an  
13 emergency would warrant such travel.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.24.090 and 1995 c 301 s 73 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 (1) No claim for reimbursement of any expenditures by officers or  
17 employees of any municipal corporation or political subdivision of the  
18 state for transportation, lodging, meals or any other purpose shall be

1 allowed by any officer, employee or board charged with auditing  
2 accounts unless the same shall be presented in a detailed account(~~(÷~~  
3 ~~PROVIDED, That,~~)).

4 (2) The legislative body of the municipal corporation or political  
5 subdivision of the state shall prescribe by ordinance or formally  
6 adopted resolution that whenever travel by commercial air carrier is  
7 required, the reimbursement rate for airline tickets shall be coach or  
8 equivalent class. The ordinance or resolution may include specific  
9 circumstances when reimbursement for business or equivalent class may  
10 be authorized.

11 (3) Unless otherwise authorized by law, the legislative body of any  
12 municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state may  
13 prescribe by ordinance or resolution the amounts to be paid officers or  
14 employees thereof as reimbursement for the use of their personal  
15 automobiles or other transportation equipment in connection with  
16 officially assigned duties and other travel for approved public  
17 purposes, or as reimbursement to such officers or employees in lieu of  
18 actual expenses incurred for lodging, meals or other purposes. The  
19 rates for such reimbursements may be computed on a mileage, hourly, per  
20 diem, monthly, or other basis as the respective legislative bodies  
21 shall determine to be proper in each instance: PROVIDED, That in lieu  
22 of such reimbursements, payments for the use of personal automobiles  
23 for official travel may be established if the legislative body  
24 determines that these payments would be less costly to the municipal  
25 corporation or political subdivision of the state than providing  
26 automobiles for official travel.

27 (4) All claims authorized under this section shall be duly  
28 certified by the officer or employee submitting such claims on forms  
29 and in the manner prescribed by the state auditor.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 42.24.120 and 1969 c 74 s 1 are each amended to read  
31 as follows:

32 Whenever it becomes necessary for an elected or appointed official  
33 or employee of the municipal corporation or political subdivision to  
34 travel and incur expenses, the legislative body of such municipal  
35 corporation or political subdivision may provide, in the manner that  
36 local legislation is officially enacted, reasonable allowances to such  
37 officers and employees in advance of expenditure. The local  
38 legislation shall require that when travel by commercial air carrier is

1 required the purchase of airline tickets shall be coach or equivalent  
2 class. The legislation may specify specific circumstances when travel  
3 by business or equivalent class may be authorized. Such advance shall  
4 be made under appropriate rules and regulations to be prescribed by the  
5 state auditor.

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