
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6701

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser and Wood)

Read first time 02/06/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to intercity transportation; amending RCW
2 35.58.250, 35.92.060, and 36.57A.100, and 81.112.090; adding a new
3 section to chapter 47.26 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 47.08
4 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature declares it to be of
7 significant benefit to citizens of the state to improve public
8 transportation connections among the major activity centers in the
9 central Puget Sound area. The activity centers include major
10 transportation centers, major work and commercial sites, cultural and
11 sports facilities, and political centers, including the state capital.

12 The legislature finds that there are many public transportation
13 services being provided in the region that, if better coordinated and
14 if more information were readily attainable, mobility would be enhanced
15 for persons traveling in the region. This would occur not only for
16 those using public transportation systems but for those who would
17 benefit in terms of reduced congestion on highways and other modes.

18 It is the intent of the legislature, through this act and other
19 supporting activities to enhance the coordination of existing public

1 transportation services in the region as well as to provide for new
2 initiatives to enhance service levels, improve cross-jurisdictional
3 services, facilitate the travel on public conveyances throughout the
4 region and reduce impediments to travel among areas in the region. It
5 is the legislature's intent to provide better information to the
6 traveling public, to include the private sector in the enhanced
7 mobility approaches, and to facilitate the use of new technologies for
8 fare collection and information to the extent practical.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.26 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) The transportation improvement board, in consultation with the
12 department of transportation, shall develop a grant process for
13 projects and programs by public and private agencies to enhance
14 mobility on public conveyance in the four most populous contiguous
15 counties connected by an interstate highway.

16 (2) The purpose of the grants is to enhance the information
17 available regarding public transportation services in the region along
18 corridors where there is a significant state interest.

19 (3) The transportation improvement board shall develop requirements
20 for matching grants issued under this section with the intent of
21 encouraging participation of other agencies or parties. However, for
22 public agencies applying for such grants, those agencies must have a
23 local minimum matching requirement of twenty percent.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.08 RCW
25 to read as follows:

26 The intercity passenger account is created in the transportation
27 fund. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
28 Expenditures from the account may be used only to enhance the
29 connectivity of passenger services in the four most populous contiguous
30 counties connected by an interstate highway in the state, between and
31 among transportation providers serving corridors where there is
32 significant state interest.

33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 35.58.250 and 1965 c 7 s 35.58.250 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) Except in accordance with an agreement made as provided herein,
36 upon the effective date on which the metropolitan municipal corporation

1 commences to perform the metropolitan transportation function, no
2 person or private corporation shall operate a local public passenger
3 transportation service within the metropolitan area with the exception
4 of:

5 (a) Taxis(~~, busses~~);

6 (b) Buses owned or operated by a school district or private
7 school(~~, and busses~~);

8 (c) Buses owned or operated by any corporation or organization
9 solely for the purposes of the corporation or organization and for the
10 use of which no fee or fare is charged ; and

11 (d) Buses owned or operated by another municipality, as defined in
12 RCW 35.58.272, operating along regional bus routes that cross one or
13 more jurisdictional boundaries between municipalities located in the
14 four most populous contiguous counties connected by an interstate
15 highway, that may include stops in the routes to embark and disembark
16 passengers, if those routes emanate or terminate within that
17 municipality's boundaries.

18 (2) An agreement may be entered into between the metropolitan
19 municipal corporation and any person or corporation legally operating
20 a local public passenger transportation service wholly within or partly
21 within and partly without the metropolitan area and on said effective
22 date under which such person or corporation may continue to operate
23 such service or any part thereof for such time and upon such terms and
24 conditions as provided in such agreement. Where any such local public
25 passenger transportation service will be required to cease to operate
26 within the metropolitan area, the commission may agree with the owner
27 of such service to purchase the assets used in providing such service,
28 or if no agreement can be reached, the commission shall condemn such
29 assets in the manner provided herein for the condemnation of other
30 properties.

31 (3) Wherever a privately owned public carrier operates wholly or
32 partly within a metropolitan municipal corporation, the Washington
33 utilities and transportation commission shall continue to exercise
34 jurisdiction over such operation as provided by law.

35 **Sec. 5.** RCW 35.92.060 and 1995 c 42 s 1 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 A city or town may also construct, condemn and purchase, purchase,
38 acquire, add to, alter, maintain, operate, or lease cable, electric,

1 and other railways, automobiles, motor cars, motor buses, auto trucks,
2 and any and all other forms or methods of transportation of freight or
3 passengers within the corporate limits of the city or town, and a first
4 class city may also construct, purchase, acquire, add to, alter,
5 maintain, operate, or lease cable, electric, and other railways beyond
6 those corporate limits only within the boundaries of the county in
7 which the city is located and of any adjoining county, for the
8 transportation of freight and passengers above, upon, or underneath the
9 ground. It may also fix, alter, regulate, and control the fares and
10 rates to be charged therefor; and fares or rates may be adjusted or
11 eliminated for any distinguishable class of users including, but not
12 limited to, senior citizens, handicapped persons, and students.
13 Without the payment of any license fee or tax, or the filing of a bond
14 with, or the securing of a permit from, the state, or any department
15 thereof, the city or town may engage in, carry on, and operate the
16 business of transporting and carrying passengers or freight for hire by
17 any method or combination of methods that the legislative authority of
18 any city or town may by ordinance provide, with full authority to
19 regulate and control the use and operation of vehicles or other
20 agencies of transportation used for such business except for buses
21 owned or operated by another municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272,
22 operating along regional bus routes that cross one or more
23 jurisdictional boundaries between municipalities located in the four
24 most populous contiguous counties connected by an interstate highway,
25 that may include stops in the routes to embark and disembark
26 passengers, if those routes emanate or terminate within that
27 municipality's boundaries.

28 **Sec. 6.** RCW 36.57A.100 and 1977 ex.s. c 44 s 4 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (1) Except in accordance with an agreement made as provided in this
31 section or in accordance with the provisions of RCW 36.57A.090(3) (~~as~~
32 ~~now or hereafter amended~~), upon the effective date on which the public
33 transportation benefit area commences to perform the public
34 transportation service, no person or private corporation shall operate
35 a local public passenger transportation service within the public
36 transportation benefit area with the exception of:

37 (a) Taxis((~~7~~))i

1 **(b)** Buses owned or operated by a school district or private
2 school(~~(, and)~~);

3 **(c)** Buses owned or operated by any corporation or organization
4 solely for the purposes of the corporation or organization and for the
5 use of which no fee or fare is charged ; and

6 **(d)** Buses owned or operated by another municipality, as defined in
7 RCW 35.58.272, operating along regional bus routes that cross one or
8 more jurisdictional boundaries between municipalities located in the
9 four most populous contiguous counties connected by an interstate
10 highway, that may include stops in the routes to embark and disembark
11 passengers, if those routes emanate or terminate within that
12 municipality's boundaries.

13 **(2)** An agreement may be entered into between the public
14 transportation benefit area authority and any person or corporation
15 legally operating a local public passenger transportation service
16 wholly within or partly within and partly without the public
17 transportation benefit area and on said effective date under which such
18 person or corporation may continue to operate such service or any part
19 thereof for such time and upon such terms and conditions as provided in
20 such agreement. Such agreement shall provide for a periodic review of
21 the terms and conditions contained therein. Where any such local
22 public passenger transportation service will be required to cease to
23 operate within the public transportation benefit area, the public
24 transportation benefit area authority may agree with the owner of such
25 service to purchase the assets used in providing such service, or if no
26 agreement can be reached, the public transportation benefit area
27 authority shall condemn such assets in the manner and by the same
28 procedure as is or may be provided by law for the condemnation of other
29 properties for cities of the first class, except insofar as such laws
30 may be inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

31 **(3)** Wherever a privately owned public carrier operates wholly or
32 partly within a public transportation benefit area, the Washington
33 utilities and transportation commission shall continue to exercise
34 jurisdiction over such operation as provided by law.

35 **Sec. 7.** RCW 81.112.090 and 1992 c 101 s 9 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 Except in accordance with an agreement made as provided in this
38 section, upon the date an authority begins high capacity transportation

1 service, no person or private corporation may operate a high capacity
2 transportation service within the authority boundary with the exception
3 of: (1) Services owned or operated by any corporation or organization
4 solely for the purposes of the corporation or organization and for the
5 use of which no fee or fare is charged; and (2) buses owned or operated
6 by a municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, operating along
7 regional bus routes that cross one or more jurisdictional boundaries
8 between municipalities located in the four most populous contiguous
9 counties connected by an interstate highway, that may include stops in
10 the routes to embark and disembark passengers, if those routes emanate
11 or terminate within that municipality's boundaries, and if any part of
12 the service area of the municipality is not included in the boundaries
13 of the authority.

14 The authority and any person or corporation legally operating a
15 high capacity transportation service wholly within or partly within and
16 partly without the authority boundary on the date an authority begins
17 high capacity transportation service may enter into an agreement under
18 which such person or corporation may continue to operate such service
19 or any part thereof for such time and upon such terms and conditions as
20 provided in such agreement. Such agreement shall provide for a
21 periodic review of the terms and conditions contained therein. Where
22 any such high capacity transportation service will be required to cease
23 to operate within the authority boundary, the authority may agree with
24 the owner of such service to purchase the assets used in providing such
25 service, or if no agreement can be reached, an authority shall condemn
26 such assets in the manner and by the same procedure as is or may be
27 provided by law for the condemnation of other properties for cities of
28 the first class, except insofar as such laws may be inconsistent with
29 this chapter.

30 Wherever a privately owned public carrier operates wholly or partly
31 within an authority boundary, the Washington utilities and
32 transportation commission shall continue to exercise jurisdiction over
33 such operation as provided by law.

34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. Municipalities in the state, as defined in
35 RCW 35.58.272, that are located in the four most populous contiguous
36 counties connected by an interstate highway, shall prepare and
37 distribute by July 1, 1997, a brochure providing scheduling information
38 that shall address methods to travel among the counties on public

1 conveyances. This document shall address, at minimum, interconnecting
2 bus schedules operated by those municipalities, intercity bus
3 operations, aeroport services, passenger trains, and ferry system
4 connections. This document shall be made available to the public in
5 order to facilitate the use of those providers in the travel of persons
6 throughout the region.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The department of transportation in
8 cooperation with the department of general administration and other
9 appropriate jurisdictions shall evaluate the feasibility of
10 establishment of a pilot project to provide shuttle services connecting
11 the state capitol with major state government destination sites and
12 other appropriate facilities in the central Puget Sound region. The
13 department of transportation shall report back to the legislature its
14 findings by December 1, 1996.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** It is the intent of the legislature that
16 municipalities, as defined in RCW 35.58.272 and located within the four
17 most populous contiguous counties connected by an interstate highway,
18 work together to develop policies and joint operating agreements to
19 facilitate transportation between and among those jurisdictions and to
20 facilitate opportunity for travel by public transportation within the
21 region. These policies and agreements shall address, but not be
22 limited to: (1) Improved transit connections among those
23 municipalities; (2) improved transit connections with other
24 transportation providers including the state ferry system; (3)
25 reduction in the use of nonproductive resources such as empty backhauls
26 and closed door service necessitated by another jurisdiction; (4)
27 adoption of fare collection policies designed to facilitate
28 interjurisdictional regional travel; and (5) improved information for
29 riders connecting between systems.

30 Should those municipalities described in this section develop
31 policies consistent with the intent of this section, it is further the
32 intent of the legislature to delay the effective date of sections 4
33 through 7 of this act.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 4 through 7 of this act take
35 effect July 1, 1997.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** If specific funding for the purposes of
2 this act, referring to this act by bill or chapter number, is not
3 provided for in a transportation appropriations act in 1996 that is
4 enacted, this act is null and void.

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