
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 35.58.250
2 and 36.57A.100; adding a new section to chapter 47.26 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 47.08 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

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

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

17 It is the intent of the legislature, through this act and other
18 supporting activities to enhance the coordination of existing public
19 transportation services in the region as well as to provide for new

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

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

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

15 (2) The purpose of the grants is to enhance public transportation
16 services in the region along corridors where there is a significant
17 state interest. These efforts may include contracts with public and
18 private providers for additional service, integrated fare collection
19 approaches, and the development and distribution of fare and schedule
20 information designed to facilitate ease of connection among providers
21 of transportation services including, but not limited to ferry, bus,
22 and train service and also ship and airport connections.

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

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

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

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

3 Except in accordance with an agreement made as provided herein, and
4 except for those services provided for through grants provided under
5 section 2 of this act, upon the effective date on which the
6 metropolitan municipal corporation commences to perform the
7 metropolitan transportation function, no person or private corporation
8 shall operate a local public passenger transportation service within
9 the metropolitan area with the exception of taxis, ~~((busses))~~ buses
10 owned or operated by a school district or private school, and
11 ~~((busses))~~ buses owned or operated by any corporation or organization
12 solely for the purposes of the corporation or organization and for the
13 use of which no fee or fare is charged.

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

27 Wherever a privately owned public carrier operates wholly or partly
28 within a metropolitan municipal corporation, the Washington utilities
29 and transportation commission shall continue to exercise jurisdiction
30 over such operation as provided by law.

31 **Sec. 5.** RCW 36.57A.100 and 1977 ex.s. c 44 s 4 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

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

1 transportation benefit area except for those services provided for
2 through grants provided under section 2 of this act and with the
3 exception of taxis, buses owned or operated by a school district or
4 private school, and buses owned or operated by any corporation or
5 organization solely for the purposes of the corporation or organization
6 and for the use of which no fee or fare is charged.

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

25 Wherever a privately owned public carrier operates wholly or partly
26 within a public transportation benefit area, the Washington utilities
27 and transportation commission shall continue to exercise jurisdiction
28 over such operation as provided by law.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Municipalities in the state, as defined in
30 RCW 35.58.272, that are located in the four most populous contiguous
31 counties connected by an interstate highway, shall prepare and
32 distribute by July 1, 1997, a brochure providing scheduling information
33 that shall address methods to travel among the counties on public
34 conveyances. This document shall address, at minimum, interconnecting
35 bus schedules operated by those municipalities, intercity bus
36 operations, aeroporter services, passenger trains, and ferry system
37 connections. This document shall be made available to the public in

1 order to facilitate the use of those providers in the travel of persons
2 throughout the region.

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

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
12 act, referring to this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided
13 for in a transportation appropriations act in 1996 that is enacted,
14 this act is null and void.

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