
SENATE BILL 6701

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser and Wood

Read first time 01/24/96. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to intercity transportation; amending RCW 35.58.250
2 and 36.57A.100; reenacting and amending RCW 82.44.110; adding a new
3 section to chapter 47.26 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 47.08
4 RCW; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

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

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

31 The intercity passenger account is created in the transportation
32 fund. All receipts from RCW 82.44.110(1)(1) shall be deposited into
33 the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after
34 appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only to
35 enhance the connectivity of passenger services in the four most
36 populous contiguous counties connected by an interstate highway in the

1 state, between and among transportation providers serving corridors
2 where there is significant state interest.

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

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

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

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

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

35 Except in accordance with an agreement made as provided in this
36 section or in accordance with the provisions of RCW 36.57A.090(3) ~~((as~~
37 ~~now or hereafter amended))~~, upon the effective date on which the public

1 transportation benefit area commences to perform the public
2 transportation service, no person or private corporation shall operate
3 a local public passenger transportation service within the public
4 transportation benefit area except for those services provided for
5 through grants provided under section 2 of this act and with the
6 exception of taxis, buses owned or operated by a school district or
7 private school, and buses owned or operated by any corporation or
8 organization solely for the purposes of the corporation or organization
9 and for the use of which no fee or fare is charged.

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

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

32 **Sec. 6.** RCW 82.44.110 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 15 s 2 and 1995 c 398
33 s 14 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

34 The county auditor shall regularly, when remitting license fee
35 receipts, pay over and account to the director of licensing for the
36 excise taxes collected under the provisions of this chapter. The
37 director shall forthwith transmit the excise taxes to the state
38 treasurer.

1 (1) The state treasurer shall deposit the excise taxes collected
2 under RCW 82.44.020(1) as follows:

3 (a) 1.60 percent into the motor vehicle fund to defray
4 administrative and other expenses incurred by the department in the
5 collection of the excise tax.

6 (b) 8.15 percent into the Puget Sound capital construction account
7 in the motor vehicle fund.

8 (c) 4.07 percent into the Puget Sound ferry operations account in
9 the motor vehicle fund.

10 (d) 5.88 percent into the general fund to be distributed under RCW
11 82.44.155.

12 (e) 4.75 percent into the municipal sales and use tax equalization
13 account in the general fund created in RCW 82.14.210.

14 (f) 1.60 percent into the county sales and use tax equalization
15 account in the general fund created in RCW 82.14.200.

16 (g) 62.6440 percent into the general fund through June 30, 1995,
17 and 57.6440 percent into the general fund beginning July 1, 1995.

18 (h) 5 percent into the transportation fund created in RCW 82.44.180
19 beginning July 1, 1995.

20 (i) 5.9686 percent into the county criminal justice assistance
21 account created in RCW 82.14.310.

22 (j) 1.1937 percent into the municipal criminal justice assistance
23 account for distribution under RCW 82.14.320.

24 (k) 1.1937 percent into the municipal criminal justice assistance
25 account for distribution under RCW 82.14.330.

26 (l) 0.40 percent into the intercity passenger account created in
27 section 3 of this act beginning July 1, 1996.

28 (m) 2.95 percent into the county public health account created in
29 RCW 70.05.125.

30 (~~Notwithstanding (i) through (k) of this subsection, no more than~~
31 ~~sixty million dollars shall be deposited into the accounts specified in~~
32 ~~(i) through (k) of this subsection for the period January 1, 1994,~~
33 ~~through June 30, 1995.)) Not more than five percent of the funds~~

34 deposited to ((these)) the accounts specified in (i) through (k) of
35 this subsection shall be available for appropriations for enhancements
36 to the state patrol crime laboratory system and the continuing costs
37 related to these enhancements. Motor vehicle excise tax funds
38 appropriated for such enhancements shall not supplant existing funds
39 from the state general fund. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998,

1 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the amounts deposited into the
2 accounts specified in (i) through (k) of this subsection shall not
3 increase by more than the amounts deposited into those accounts in the
4 previous fiscal year increased by the implicit price deflator for the
5 previous fiscal year. Any revenues in excess of this amount shall be
6 deposited into the general fund.

7 (2) The state treasurer shall deposit the excise taxes collected
8 under RCW 82.44.020(2) into the transportation fund.

9 (3) The state treasurer shall deposit the excise tax imposed by RCW
10 82.44.020(3) into the air pollution control account created by RCW
11 70.94.015.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Municipalities in the state, as defined in
13 RCW 35.58.272, that are located in the four most populous contiguous
14 counties connected by an interstate highway, shall prepare and
15 distribute by July 1, 1997, a brochure providing scheduling information
16 that shall address methods to travel among the counties on public
17 conveyances. This document shall address, at minimum, interconnecting
18 bus schedules operated by those municipalities, intercity bus
19 operations, aeroporter services, passenger trains, and ferry system
20 connections. This document shall be made available to the public in
21 order to facilitate the use of those providers in the travel of persons
22 throughout the region.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The department of transportation in
24 cooperation with the department of general administration and other
25 appropriate jurisdictions shall evaluate the feasibility of
26 establishment of a pilot project to provide shuttle services connecting
27 the state capitol with major state employment centers and other
28 appropriate facilities in the central Puget Sound region. The
29 department of transportation shall report back to the legislature its
30 findings by December 1, 1996.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The sum of two million five hundred thousand
32 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from
33 the intercity passenger account of the transportation fund to the

1 transportation improvement board for the fiscal year ending June 30,
2 1997, to carry out the purposes of this act.

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