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**SENATE BILL 5948**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Benton, Finkbeiner, Zarelli, Schow, Hochstatter, Stevens, Anderson and Roach

Read first time 02/21/97. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving public mass transportation systems;  
2 adding new sections to chapter 35.58 RCW; adding new sections to  
3 chapter 36.57 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 36.57A RCW; adding  
4 new sections to chapter 47.60 RCW; adding new sections to chapter  
5 81.112 RCW; and repealing RCW 35.58.250, 35.58.265, 36.57.080,  
6 36.57.090, 36.57A.100, 36.57A.120, 81.112.100, and 81.112.110.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.58 RCW  
9 to read as follows:

10 Notwithstanding the authority granted in this chapter, a  
11 metropolitan municipal corporation shall effectively separate the  
12 administration of the transportation functions of the agency from  
13 actual operation of those functions. The metropolitan municipal  
14 corporation shall focus on the mission of maximizing service and  
15 ridership within public resource constraints. The metropolitan  
16 municipal corporation shall retain control over decisions relating to  
17 policy, routes, schedules, fares, vehicles, and service standards, but  
18 operation of these components must be performed by a contractor.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 35.58 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) Notwithstanding the powers authorized in RCW 35.58.260, a  
4 metropolitan municipal corporation operating a transportation facility  
5 or service shall prepare bid documents for all individual routes, or  
6 logical groupings of routes, setting forth the desired schedules,  
7 equipment sizes, and all safety and service requirements pertaining to  
8 the routes and equipment, and all capital facilities owned and all  
9 services performed by the transit agency.

10       (2) A metropolitan municipal corporation operating a transportation  
11 facility or service shall advertise invitations to bid for these  
12 facilities or services to the general public, including corporations  
13 and currently operating transit agencies if they choose to participate,  
14 and collect sealed bids, which bids must be opened in public.

15       (3) A metropolitan municipal corporation operating a transportation  
16 facility or service shall award the contracts to the lowest responsible  
17 bidder for that particular service or facility.

18       (4) The selected bidder shall operate the facilities, services, and  
19 routes awarded.

20       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 36.57 RCW  
21 to read as follows:

22       Notwithstanding the authority granted in this chapter, a county  
23 transportation authority shall effectively separate administration of  
24 the transportation functions from actual operation of those functions.  
25 The authority shall focus on the mission of maximizing service and  
26 ridership within public resource constraints. The authority shall  
27 retain control over decisions relating to policy, routes, schedules,  
28 fares, vehicles, and service standards, but operation of these  
29 components must be performed by a contractor.

30       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    A new section is added to chapter 36.57 RCW  
31 to read as follows:

32       (1) Notwithstanding the powers authorized in RCW 36.57.040, a  
33 county transportation authority operating a transportation facility or  
34 service shall prepare bid documents for all individual routes, or  
35 logical groupings of routes, setting forth the desired schedules,  
36 equipment sizes, and all safety and service requirements pertaining to

1 the routes and equipment, and all capital facilities owned and all  
2 services performed by the county transportation authority.

3 (2) An authority operating a transportation facility or service  
4 shall advertise invitations to bid for these facilities or services to  
5 the general public, including corporations and currently operating  
6 transit agencies if they choose to participate, and collect sealed  
7 bids, which bids must be opened in public.

8 (3) An authority operating a transportation facility or service  
9 shall award the contracts to the lowest responsible bidder for that  
10 particular service or facility.

11 (4) The selected bidder shall operate the facilities, services, and  
12 routes awarded.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 36.57A RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 Notwithstanding the authority granted in this chapter, a public  
16 transportation benefit area shall effectively separate the function of  
17 administration of the transportation functions from actual operation of  
18 those functions. The public transportation benefit area shall focus on  
19 the mission of maximizing service and ridership within public resource  
20 constraints. The public transportation benefit area shall retain  
21 control over decisions relating to policy, routes, schedules, fares,  
22 vehicles, and service standards, but operation of these components must  
23 be performed by a contractor.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 36.57A RCW  
25 to read as follows:

26 (1) Notwithstanding the powers granted by this chapter, a public  
27 transportation benefit area shall prepare bid documents for individual  
28 routes, or logical groupings of routes, setting forth the desired  
29 schedules, equipment sizes, and all safety and service requirements  
30 pertaining to the routes and equipment, and all facilities and services  
31 provided by the transit agency.

32 (2) A public transportation benefit area operating a transportation  
33 facility or service shall advertise invitations to bid for these  
34 facilities or services to the general public, including corporations  
35 and currently operating transit agencies if they choose to participate,  
36 and collect sealed bids, which bids must be opened in public.

1 (3) A public transportation benefit area operating a transportation  
2 facility or service shall award the contracts to the lowest responsible  
3 bidder for that particular service or facility.

4 (4) The selected bidder shall operate the facilities, services, and  
5 routes awarded.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 Notwithstanding the authority granted in this chapter, the  
9 department of transportation shall effectively separate the  
10 administration of the transportation functions of the state ferry  
11 system from actual operation of those functions. The department shall  
12 focus on the mission of maximizing service and ridership within public  
13 resource constraints. The department shall retain control over  
14 decisions relating to policy, routes, schedules, fares, vehicles,  
15 vessels, and service standards, but operation of these components must  
16 be performed by a contractor.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) Notwithstanding the powers authorized in this chapter, the  
20 department shall prepare bid documents for all individual routes, or  
21 logical groupings of routes, setting forth the desired schedules,  
22 equipment sizes, and all safety and service requirements pertaining to  
23 the routes and equipment, and all capital facilities owned and all  
24 services performed by the ferry system.

25 (2) The department shall advertise invitations to bid for these  
26 facilities and services to the general public, including corporations  
27 and currently operating transit agencies if they choose to participate,  
28 and collect sealed bids, which bids must be opened in public.

29 (3) The state ferry system shall award the contracts to the lowest  
30 responsible bidder for that particular service or facility.

31 (4) The selected bidder shall operate the facilities, services, and  
32 routes awarded.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112 RCW  
34 to read as follows:

35 Notwithstanding the authority granted in this chapter, a regional  
36 transit authority shall effectively separate the function of

1 administration of the transportation functions from actual operation of  
2 those functions. The authority shall focus on the mission of  
3 maximizing service and ridership within public resource constraints.  
4 The authority shall retain control over decisions relating to policy,  
5 routes, schedules, fares, vehicles, and service standards, but  
6 operation of these components must be performed by a contractor.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) Notwithstanding the powers granted in this chapter, the  
10 authority shall prepare bid documents for individual routes, or logical  
11 groupings of routes, setting forth the desired schedules, equipment  
12 sizes, and all safety and service requirements pertaining to the routes  
13 and equipment, and all facilities owned and services provided by the  
14 authority.

15 (2) An authority operating a transportation facility or service  
16 shall advertise invitations to bid for these facilities or services to  
17 the general public, including corporations and currently operating  
18 transit agencies if they choose to participate, and collect sealed  
19 bids, which bids must be opened in public.

20 (3) An authority operating a transportation facility or service  
21 shall award the contracts to the lowest responsible bidder for that  
22 particular service or facility.

23 (4) The selected bidder shall operate the facilities, services, and  
24 routes awarded.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The following acts or parts of acts are  
26 each repealed:

27 (1) RCW 35.58.250 and 1965 c 7 s 35.58.250;

28 (2) RCW 35.58.265 and 1965 c 91 s 1;

29 (3) RCW 36.57.080 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 s 5 & 1974 ex.s. c 167  
30 s 8;

31 (4) RCW 36.57.090 and 1974 ex.s. c 167 s 9;

32 (5) RCW 36.57A.100 and 1977 ex.s. c 44 s 4 & 1975 1st ex.s. c 270  
33 s 20;

34 (6) RCW 36.57A.120 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 s 22;

35 (7) RCW 81.112.100 and 1992 c 101 s 10; and

1 (8) RCW 81.112.110 and 1992 c 101 s 11.

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