

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1061

As Reported By House Committee On:
Transportation

Title: An act relating to the freight mobility strategic investment board.

Brief Description: Modifying provisions concerning the freight mobility strategic investment board.

Sponsors: Representatives K. Schmidt, Fisher, Radcliff, Sullivan, Skinner and Hankins; by request of Legislative Transportation Committee.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 1/20/99, 1/25/99 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Allows freight board members to be reimbursed travel expenses pursuant to OFM guidelines.
- Provides the board flexibility in determining its staffing levels and positions.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 23 members: Representatives Fisher, Democratic Co-Chair; K. Schmidt, Republican Co-Chair; Cooper, Democratic ¶ Vice Chair; Edwards, Democratic ¶ Vice Chair; Ericksen, Republican Vice Chair; Hankins, Republican Vice Chair; G. Chandler; Fortunato; Haigh; Hatfield; Hurst; Lovick; Mielke; Mitchell; Ogden; Pflug; Radcliff; Romero; Schindler; Schual-Berke; Scott; Skinner and Wood.

Staff: Jeff Doyle (786-7322).

Background:

In 1998, the Legislature created the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Program. The purpose of the program is to construct high-priority freight transportation projects using the greatest amount of partnership (non-state) funding possible.

The program is governed by the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB). The FMSIB is comprised of freight mobility stakeholders, including the state, cities, counties, port districts, representatives of the trucking and railroad industry, barge and steamship operators, and a representative from the Governor's office.

The FMSIB was directed to employ an executive director and submit a status report and staffing plan to the Legislature prior to the 1999 legislative session. It was anticipated that the FMSIB would remain an autonomous board operating independently from the state Department of Transportation (DOT). Current law requires that the DOT, the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) and the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) provide staff support for most of the FMSIB's functions.

The authorizing legislation does not permit board members to be reimbursed travel and other necessary expenses for attending board meetings. This was done with the expectation that each member of the board, or his/her representative agency, would pay for their travel expenses.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

Members of the FMSIB are eligible to receive travel reimbursement as allowed under the Office of Financial Management guidelines.

The FMSIB is no longer required to hire an executive director. If the FMSIB chooses not to hire an executive director, it may contract out with the private sector or rely on state transportation-related agencies to carry out the responsibilities of that position. The FMSIB may obtain additional staff support from the DOT, the TIB and the CRAB.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

Allows the board to use existing transportation agency staff to serve as executive director, or the board may contract for that position with the private sector.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 19, 1999.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: None.