

***Transportation Committee***

***HB 1682***

***Brief Description:*** *Removing barriers to transportation services provided by the private sector.*

***Sponsors:*** *Representatives Fisher, Mitchell and Poulsen; by request of The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation.*

***Brief Summary of Bill***

- *Authorizes private sector providers to offer transit service within an area served by a public transportation benefit authority (PTBA).*
- *Authorizes private sector providers to offer ferry service without regard to whether it competes with current service offered by Washington state ferries (WSF).*
- *Removes requirement that renter, lessee, or charterer of WSF vessels or facilities operate WSF labor contracts.*

***Hearing Date:*** *2/12/01*

***Staff:*** *Paul Neal (786-7315).*

***Background:***

*The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation (BRCT) delivered its final report to the Governor and the Legislature in December of 2000. Among the recommendations made by the BRCT was recommendation 9 entitled: Use the private sector to deliver projects and transportation services.– Specifically, the BRCT recommendation 9b stated: Examine removing barriers preventing the private sector from providing transportation services in light of some public expressed interest in alternative services, which could include ferry, bus, or monorail.–*

***Barriers preventing or hampering private sector participation in providing bus or ferry service include:***

*·Prohibition against private operators providing bus service in an area covered by a PTBA unless the benefit area authorizes that service;*

- Prohibition against providing ferry service within 10-mile radius of area currently served by WSF unless authorized by the Utilities and Transportation Commission;*
- Requirement that persons renting, leasing, or chartering WSF vessels or facilities be bound by WSF labor agreements.*

***Summary of Bill:***

*Removes the prohibition against private service providers offering bus service in an area covered by a transportation benefit area without the authorization of the PTBA.*

*Lifts the prohibition against providing ferry service within 10 miles of a crossing currently operated by the state.*

*Authorizes persons renting, leasing, or chartering WSF vessels or facilities to do so without being bound by existing labor agreements between WSF and its employees.*

***Appropriation: None.***

***Fiscal Note: Not Requested.***

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