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HOUSE BILL 1603

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Morell, O'Brien, Miloscia, Kirby, Boldt, Mitchell, Campbell and Dunn

Read first time 01/30/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the definition of high occupancy vehicle;  
2 amending RCW 46.61.165 and 47.52.025; and adding a new section to  
3 chapter 46.04 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 "High occupancy vehicle" means:

8 (1) A rubber tired municipal transit vehicle;

9 (2) A bus with a carrying capacity of at least sixteen persons,  
10 including the driver;

11 (3) A motorcycle;

12 (4) A motor home with at least the number of occupants specified on  
13 applicable highway signs;

14 (5) A tow truck, regardless of weight or number of occupants, when  
15 en route to an emergency on a specific roadway or roadside; and

16 (6) Any other vehicle with at least the number of occupants  
17 specified on applicable highway signs, other than a truck over twenty  
18 thousand pounds gross vehicle weight.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.61.165 and 1999 c 206 s 1 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       The state department of transportation and the local authorities  
4 are authorized to reserve all or any portion of any highway under their  
5 respective jurisdictions, including any designated lane or ramp, for  
6 the exclusive or preferential use of (~~public transportation vehicles~~  
7 ~~or private motor vehicles carrying no fewer than a specified number of~~  
8 ~~passengers~~) high occupancy vehicles when such limitation will increase  
9 the efficient utilization of the highway or will aid in the  
10 conservation of energy resources. Regulations authorizing such  
11 exclusive or preferential use of a highway facility may be declared to  
12 be effective at all times or at specified times of day or on specified  
13 days. Violation of a restriction of highway usage prescribed by the  
14 appropriate authority under this section is a traffic infraction.

15       **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.52.025 and 1974 ex.s. c 133 s 1 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17       Highway authorities of the state, counties, and incorporated cities  
18 and towns, in addition to the specific powers granted in this chapter,  
19 shall also have, and may exercise, relative to limited access  
20 facilities, any and all additional authority, now or hereafter vested  
21 in them relative to highways or streets within their respective  
22 jurisdictions, and may regulate, restrict, or prohibit the use of such  
23 limited access facilities by various classes of vehicles or traffic.  
24 Such highway authorities may reserve any limited access facility or  
25 portions thereof, including designated lanes or ramps for the exclusive  
26 or preferential use of (~~public transportation vehicles, privately~~  
27 ~~owned buses, or private motor vehicles carrying not less than a~~  
28 ~~specified number of passengers~~) high occupancy vehicles as defined in  
29 section 1 of this act when such limitation will increase the efficient  
30 utilization of the highway facility or will aid in the conservation of  
31 energy resources. Regulations authorizing such exclusive or  
32 preferential use of a highway facility may be declared to be effective  
33 at all time or at specified times of day or on specified days.

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