

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESHB 2343

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Transportation, February 23, 1996

Title: An act relating to transportation funding and appropriations.

Brief Description: Funding transportation.

Sponsors: House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives K. Schmidt, R. Fisher, D. Schmidt and Thompson; by request of Office of Financial Management).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/21/96, 2/23/96 [DPA].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Owen, Chair; Heavey, Vice Chair; Goings, Haugen, Morton, Prentice, Prince, Rasmussen, Schow, Thibaudeau and Wood.

Staff: Brad Lovaas (786-7307)

Background: Appropriation authority is required for the expenditure of state funds. State government operates on the basis of a fiscal biennium that begins on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. A biennial transportation budget was enacted in the 1995 session to fund transportation agencies and programs from July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1997.

The Governor signed into law the 1995-97 transportation budget totaling just under \$3.117 billion of appropriations from over 30 different funds and accounts.

Two-thirds of the moneys appropriated in the transportation budget are for capital programs, and one-third is for operating programs of the transportation agencies.

The motor vehicle fund is the primary funding source of transportation programs, providing for 45 percent, or \$1.4 billion, of transportation appropriations in the 1995-97 transportation budget.

The Legislature provided fiscal year 1996 (FY 96)-only funding for several transportation agencies' programs.

Summary of Amended Bill: Appropriation authority of the transportation agencies is increased by \$176.3 million for the remainder of the 1995-97 biennium. \$176.3 million is appropriated to eight state agencies: the Department of Transportation (\$88.4 million), the Transportation Improvement Board (\$42.8 million), the County Road Administration Board (\$20.0 million), the Department of Licensing (\$16.2 million), the State Patrol (\$8.3 million),

the Legislative Transportation Committee (\$250,000), the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (\$205,000), and the Transportation Commission (\$87,000).

Amended Bill Compared to Substitute Bill: The striking amendment changes the appropriation authority of the transportation agencies from an increase of \$152.1 million to an increase of \$173.1 million for the remainder of the 1995-97 biennium. The Department of Transportation appropriation is changed from \$79.0 million to \$86.8 million; the Transportation Improvement Board appropriation is changed from \$34.8 million to \$42.8 million; the County Road Administration Board appropriation is changed from \$15.0 million to \$20.0 million; the Department of Licensing appropriation is changed from \$14.4 million to \$14.7 million; the Legislative Transportation Committee appropriation is changed from \$300,000 to \$250,000; and the Department of Ecology appropriation of \$25,000 is removed.

Appropriation: \$176.3 million.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Testimony For: Additional money will be provided for Washington State Patrol salaries, HOV lane work, and other highway construction projects.

Testimony Against: Transit funds should not be used for road projects.

Testified: Caroline Robertson, Bellevue Downtown Assn. (pro SR 520 EIS funding); Charles Hamilton, small business owner (con use of transit funds for road projects); Bart Cima (pro SR 520 process); Dick Page, WA Transportation Partners (pro SR 520 process); Lynn Benz, City of Medina (pro); Kern Jacobson, Parsons Brinckerhoff (con use of transit funds for road projects).