
SENATE BILL 5960

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senator Benton

Read first time 02/25/2003. Referred to Committee on Highways & Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting a regional transit authority from
2 implementing a light rail transit system in certain areas; adding a new
3 section to chapter 81.112 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that light rail
7 transit service in certain counties is more costly, and provides
8 substantially less service, than other transit alternatives, and should
9 therefore be prohibited. The legislature further finds that regional
10 transit authorities should consider alternatives to light rail transit
11 service in certain counties to ensure that the most cost-effective
12 transit service is provided throughout the service area. However, the
13 legislature finds that in those counties where light rail transit
14 service is not cost-effective, a regional transit authority should not
15 be prohibited from implementing other high-capacity transportation
16 systems, such as commuter rail, monorail, intercity bus service, and
17 park and ride lots. Additionally, light rail transit service in the
18 less populous counties of a service area should remain as a viable
19 option for a regional transit authority.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, a regional transit
4 authority may not make any expenditure, incur any debt, issue any
5 bonds, or enter into any agreement, for the purpose of implementing a
6 light rail transit system in a county with a population over one
7 million five hundred thousand persons.

8 (2) A regional transit authority may make expenditures under this
9 section solely for the purpose of retiring debt, if any, relative to a
10 light rail transit system that was incurred before the effective date
11 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
13 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
14 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
15 immediately.

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