

ESSB 2157 - S AMD 678
By Senator Esser

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** LEGISLATIVE INTENT. The legislature finds
4 that increased demands on transportation resources require increased
5 efficiency and effectiveness in decision making within urbanized
6 regions. Legislative enactments, public votes on local and state
7 initiatives and referenda, and the number of agencies involved in
8 transportation planning and delivery of services has significantly
9 added to the complexity of transportation programs.

10 The legislature further finds that coordinated planning, investment
11 in, and operation of transportation systems by the state and local
12 governments can help ensure an efficient, effective transportation
13 system that addresses community needs. Such coordination can also
14 enhance local and state objectives for effective regional
15 transportation strategies and effective coordination between land use
16 and transportation.

17 The legislature finds that addressing this need for better
18 accountability and coordination requires a comprehensive regional
19 examination of alternative methods for consolidating and coordinating
20 transportation efforts, and improving accountability. This examination
21 is best accomplished by an independent body of experts in governmental
22 organization and transportation issues. It further finds that the
23 results of this process will guide the legislature and the public in
24 shaping changes to ensure public confidence in public institutions and
25 tax expenditures.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION. (1) The
27 governor shall appoint a regional transportation governance commission
28 of fifteen voting members. Each major party caucus of the legislature
29 shall submit four names to the governor for possible appointment, and

1 the governor must appoint two members from each caucus' list. The
2 county executives of King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties shall each
3 submit a list of two names to the governor for possible appointment,
4 and the governor must appoint one member from each county executive's
5 list. The four remaining commission members will be appointed at the
6 governor's discretion, except that one of those members will be the
7 chair of the commission, and one must be knowledgeable in the interests
8 of Kitsap county. In addition, the secretary of transportation or the
9 secretary's designee shall serve as a nonvoting member. Appointees
10 must be citizen members who do not hold public office. Appointees must
11 include experts from the private and public sectors, including
12 academia, with demonstrated expertise in innovation, structural
13 reorganization, and public or private agency decision making and must
14 also include experts in fields such as municipal law, public
15 administration, intergovernmental relationships, and transportation
16 planning, construction, operations, and risk management.

17 (2) The commission shall evaluate transportation governance in the
18 central Puget Sound area. This evaluation must include an assessment
19 of the current roles of regional transportation agencies including
20 regional transportation and metropolitan planning organizations, the
21 regional transit authority, regional transportation improvement
22 authorities, county and municipal agencies operating transit services,
23 and cities and counties and other public agencies providing
24 transportation services or facilities. The commission shall assess and
25 develop recommendations for what steps should be taken to:

26 (a) Consolidate governance among agencies including changes in
27 institutional powers, structures, and relationships and governance
28 needed to improve accountability for transportation decisions, while
29 enhancing the regional focus for transportation decisions and
30 maintaining equity among citizens in the region;

31 (b) Improve coordination in the planning of transportation
32 investments and services;

33 (c) Improve investment strategies;

34 (d) Coordinate transportation planning and investments with adopted
35 land use policies within the region;

36 (e) Enhance efficiency and coordination in the delivery of services
37 provided;

1 (f) Adjust boundaries for agencies or functions within the region
2 to address existing and future transportation and land use issues; and

3 (g) Improve coordination between regional investments and federal
4 funds, and state funding including those administered by the
5 transportation improvement board, the county road administration board,
6 and the freight mobility strategic investment board.

7 (3) Each voting member of the commission will be reimbursed for
8 actual necessary traveling and other expenses in going to, attending,
9 and returning from meetings of the commission or that are incurred in
10 the discharge of duties requested by the chair in the same manner as
11 RCW 43.03.220.

12 (4) The commission shall make public its preliminary findings and
13 recommendations by May 1, 2006, and shall provide at least fifteen days
14 for public comment. The commission shall then adopt its findings and
15 recommendations and submit them to the legislature by December 1, 2006.

16 (5) The commission shall conduct public meetings to assure active
17 public participation in the development of the recommendations.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** COMMISSION STAFF SUPPORT. The department of
19 transportation shall provide staff support to the commission and, upon
20 request of the commission, contract with other parties for staff
21 support to the commission.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter ... (ESSB
23 6091), Laws of 2005 to read as follows:

24 \$400,000 of the appropriation contained in section 223(2) of the
25 omnibus transportation act (ESSB 6091) is to be used for conducting the
26 study set forth in sections 1 through 3 of this act, and the remaining
27 \$4,500,000 is to fund the costs incurred by the regional transportation
28 investment district to prepare a regional investment plan, including a
29 funding proposal, for the November 2006 general election. The
30 investment district must present the plan to the house and senate
31 transportation committees by January 15, 2006. None of this
32 appropriation may be used for election costs.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this act is necessary for the
34 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or

1 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,
2 and takes effect immediately."

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3 In line 2 of the title, after "counties;" strike the remainder of
4 the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter ... (ESSB 6091),
5 Laws of 2005; creating new sections; and declaring an emergency."

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