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HOUSE BILL 2149

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Lovick, Harmsworth, Reeves, Farrell, Clibborn, Sullivan, Springer, Pellicciotti, Chapman, Sells, Ortiz-Self, Kilduff, Riccelli, Sawyer, Kirby, Tarleton, Stanford, Jinkins, Ryu, Pollet, Goodman, Dolan, Muri, Orcutt, Hargrove, Macri, and Santos

Read first time 03/10/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a taxpayer accountability statement  
2 to be included with regional transit authority motor vehicle excise  
3 taxes; amending RCW 81.104.190; creating a new section; and declaring  
4 an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In November 2016, the voters within the  
7 sound transit district approved a fifty-four billion dollar,  
8 taxpayer-funded light rail, heavy rail, and bus expansion in the  
9 Puget Sound region. Ensuring that taxpayers understand how funds  
10 collected by sound transit are used is critical to achieving trust  
11 between the agency and the public. The legislature finds that the  
12 opportunities to provide transparency and understanding regarding the  
13 use of taxpayer dollars should be maximized. To achieve this end, a  
14 sound transit taxpayer accountability statement will be placed on the  
15 annual registration renewal notifications provided by the department  
16 of licensing, which will contain easy-to-access and easy-to-  
17 understand information on sound transit project status and financial  
18 audits.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 81.104.190 and 2009 c 280 s 7 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

1       (1) Cities that operate transit systems, county transportation  
2 authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, public  
3 transportation benefit areas, high capacity transportation corridor  
4 areas, and regional transit systems may contract with the state  
5 department of revenue or other appropriate entities for  
6 administration and collection of any tax authorized by RCW  
7 81.104.150, 81.104.160, and 81.104.170.

8       (2)(a) A regional transit authority that includes a county with a  
9 population of more than one million five hundred thousand, if it  
10 contracts for the collection of a tax authorized by RCW 81.104.160,  
11 must require the inclusion of a taxpayer accountability statement  
12 when notification is sent to any person regarding the amount of tax  
13 levied under RCW 81.104.160.

14       (b) For purposes of this subsection, a taxpayer accountability  
15 statement must include the following:

16       (i) A statement indicating which of the regional transit  
17 authority's projects are in scope, on time, and on budget and which  
18 are not;

19       (ii) A link or web site address to audited financial statements  
20 for the regional transit authority;

21       (iii) A link or web site address to fiscal information on the  
22 regional transit authority's projects; and

23       (iv) The number of a hotline to be provided by the department of  
24 licensing to expedite contact with the appropriate regional transit  
25 authority.

26       NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate  
27 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
28 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
29 effect immediately.

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