

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2516

AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, FEBRUARY 25, 1992

**Brief Description:** Prohibiting unlawful conduct in transit stations.

**SPONSORS:** Representatives Cooper, H. Myers, Morris, Prince, G. Fisher, Riley and Paris

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Patterson, Chairman; Nelson, Vice Chairman; von Reichbauer, Vice Chairman; Barr, Conner, Erwin, W. Hansen, Madsen, Oke, Sellar, Skratek, Snyder, Thorsness, and Vognild.

**Staff:** Jeff Doyle (786-7322)

**Hearing Dates:** February 25, 1992

**BACKGROUND:**

Currently, persons riding in municipal transit vehicles are prohibited from smoking, littering, spitting, playing loud music, carrying explosives or flammable liquids, or intentionally disturbing others by engaging in loud or unruly behavior. Any violation of the statute is punishable as a criminal misdemeanor.

These provisions do not apply to transit stations, bus stops or park and ride lots.

**SUMMARY:**

Persons waiting for transportation at a municipal transit station who engage in littering, spitting, playing loud music, carrying explosives or flammable liquids, or intentionally disturbing others with loud or unruly behavior are guilty of unlawful bus conduct, a criminal misdemeanor.

Persons waiting for transit may smoke if not otherwise prohibited. Persons who smoke in a nonsmoking transit station may not be punished under this statute.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

Potential transit riders often feel annoyance, apprehension or fear of persons engaging in mischievous conduct while waiting at a transit station or stop. This perceived threat prevents many citizens, particularly senior citizens, from riding transit.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** Rep. David Cooper, prime sponsor; Chuck Williams, Clark County Transit (C-Tran); Dan Snow, Washington State Transit Association