
SENATE BILL 5519

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Newhouse, Matson, Hansen, Jesernig and Barr.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on
Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Stampede Pass rail line; adding new sections
2 to chapter 47.76 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the railroad
5 line over Stampede Pass that connects Auburn in King County to Cle Elum
6 in Kittitas County is a valuable transportation link between western
7 and eastern Washington. It is threatened with immediate abandonment by
8 the owning carrier, and loss of the corridor would restrict future
9 cross-state mobility and economic development options for eastern
10 Washington. The legislature recognizes the multiple use opportunities
11 and values of this route, including fiber optics and other
12 communication lines, a transportation corridor, recreational use, and
13 a high-speed rail route.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of transportation shall
2 monitor the actions of the rail carrier owning the railroad line over
3 Stampede Pass. After the owning rail carrier files an application with
4 the interstate commerce commission to abandon the Stampede Pass rail
5 line or portions of it, the department shall negotiate an agreement
6 with the carrier to purchase the right of way and track elements.
7 Funds to purchase the right of way and track elements shall be expended
8 from the essential rail banking account under the requirements of RCW
9 47.76.140.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department may seek to reestablish
11 rail service over any line that it acquires under this chapter. By
12 competitive bidding, the department may enter into a renewable
13 agreement with a rail service provider or first class city, county rail
14 district, or port district, which may contract for this rail service
15 with a common carrier railroad subject to interstate commerce
16 commission regulations. The department shall ensure that the first
17 class city, county rail district, port district, or rail service
18 provider reimburses the state for the following costs:

- 19 (1) Track and structure rehabilitation costs paid by the state,
20 amortized over a fifteen-year recovery period;
- 21 (2) Normalized maintenance of way costs;
- 22 (3) Fire and weed control costs;
- 23 (4) Liability insurance;
- 24 (5) Appropriate interest determined by the state treasurer
25 calculated on the state's purchase price.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** An entity that acquires a rail right of
27 way using funds from the essential rail banking account and
28 subsequently uses the right of way for purposes other than rail

1 service, shall pay an annual fee to the department. The department
2 shall establish by rule a fee structure that recovers costs to the
3 extent practical but does not discourage appropriate uses of the right
4 of way.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall pursue all sources
6 of funding, public and private, to assist with the costs associated
7 with the Stampede Pass rail line.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are
9 added to chapter 47.76 RCW.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
12 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
13 effect immediately.