
SENATE BILL 6491

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senators Vognild and Nelson

Read first time 01/25/94. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to regional transit authority propositions; and
2 amending RCW 81.112.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 81.112.030 and 1993 sp.s. c 23 s 62 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 Two or more contiguous counties each having a population of four
7 hundred thousand persons or more may establish a regional transit
8 authority to develop and operate a high capacity transportation system
9 as defined in chapter 81.104 RCW.

10 The authority shall be formed in the following manner:

11 (1) The joint regional policy committee created pursuant to RCW
12 81.104.040 shall adopt a system and financing plan, including the
13 definition of the service area. This action shall be completed by
14 September 1, 1992, contingent upon satisfactory completion of the
15 planning process defined in RCW 81.104.100. The final system plan
16 shall be adopted no later than June 30, 1993. In addition to the
17 requirements of RCW 81.104.100, the plan for the proposed system shall
18 provide explicitly for a minimum portion of new tax revenues to be
19 allocated to local transit agencies for interim express services. Upon

1 adoption the joint regional policy committee shall immediately transmit
2 the plan to the county legislative authorities within the adopted
3 service area.

4 (2) The legislative authorities of the counties within the service
5 area shall decide by resolution whether to participate in the
6 authority. This action shall be completed within forty-five days
7 following receipt of the adopted plan or by August 13, 1993, whichever
8 comes first.

9 (3) Each county that chooses to participate in the authority shall
10 appoint its board members as set forth in RCW 81.112.040 and shall
11 submit its list of members to the secretary of the Washington state
12 department of transportation. These actions must be completed within
13 thirty days following each county's decision to participate in the
14 authority.

15 (4) The secretary shall call the first meeting of the authority, to
16 be held within thirty days following receipt of the appointments. At
17 its first meeting, the authority shall elect officers and provide for
18 the adoption of rules and other operating procedures.

19 (5) The authority is formally constituted at its first meeting and
20 the board shall begin taking steps toward implementation of the system
21 and financing plan adopted by the joint regional policy committee. If
22 the joint regional policy committee fails to adopt a plan by June 30,
23 1993, the authority shall proceed to do so based on the work completed
24 by that date by the joint regional policy committee. Upon formation of
25 the authority, the joint regional policy committee shall cease to
26 exist. The authority may make minor modifications to the plan as
27 deemed necessary and shall at a minimum review local transit agencies'
28 plans to ensure feeder service/high capacity transit service
29 integration, ensure fare integration, and ensure avoidance of parallel
30 competitive services. The authority shall also conduct a minimum
31 thirty-day public comment period.

32 (6) If the authority determines that major modifications to the
33 plan are necessary before (~~being~~) the initial ballot proposition is
34 submitted to the voters, the authority may make those modifications
35 with a favorable vote of two-thirds of the entire membership. Any such
36 modification shall be subject to the review process set forth in RCW
37 81.104.110. The modified plan shall be transmitted to the legislative
38 authorities of the participating counties. The legislative authorities
39 shall have forty-five days following receipt to act by motion or

1 ordinance to confirm or rescind their continued participation in the
2 authority.

3 (7) If any county opts to not participate in the authority, but two
4 or more contiguous counties do choose to continue to participate, the
5 authority's board shall be revised accordingly. The authority shall,
6 within forty-five days, redefine the system and financing plan to
7 reflect elimination of one or more counties, and submit the redefined
8 plan to the legislative authorities of the remaining counties for their
9 decision as to whether to continue to participate. This action shall
10 be completed within forty-five days following receipt of the redefined
11 plan.

12 (8) The authority shall place on the ballot within two years of the
13 authority's formation, a single ballot proposition to (~~approve the~~
14 ~~system and finance plan and~~) authorize the imposition of (~~the~~) taxes
15 to support the implementation of an appropriate phase of the plan
16 within its service area. In addition to the system plan requirements
17 contained in RCW 81.104.100(2)(d), the system plan (~~submitted to~~
18 ~~voters~~) approved by the authority's board before the submittal of a
19 proposition to the voters shall contain an equity element which:

20 (a) Identifies revenues anticipated to be generated by corridor and
21 by county within the authority's boundaries;

22 (b) Identifies the phasing of construction and operation of high
23 capacity system facilities, services, and benefits in each corridor.
24 Phasing decisions should give priority to jurisdictions which have
25 adopted transit-supportive land use plans; and

26 (c) Identifies the degree to which revenues generated within each
27 county will benefit the residents of that county, and identifies when
28 such benefits will accrue.

29 A simple majority of those voting within the boundaries of the
30 authority is required for approval. If the vote is affirmative, the
31 authority shall begin implementation of the (~~plan~~) projects
32 identified in the proposition. However, the authority may not submit
33 any authorizing proposition for voter-approved taxes prior to July 1,
34 1993; nor may the authority issue bonds or form any local improvement
35 district prior to July 1, 1993.

36 (9) If the vote on a proposition fails, the board may redefine the
37 (~~system and financing plan~~) proposition, make changes to the
38 authority boundaries, and make corresponding changes to the composition
39 of the board. If the composition of the board is changed, the

1 participating counties shall revise the membership of the board
2 accordingly. The board may then submit the revised ((~~plan~~))
3 proposition or a different proposition to the voters. No single
4 ((~~system and financing plan~~)) proposition may be submitted to the
5 voters more than twice. The authority may place additional
6 propositions on the ballot to impose taxes to support additional phases
7 of plan implementation.

8 If the authority is unable to achieve a positive vote on a
9 proposition within two years from the date of the first election on a
10 ((~~system plan~~)) proposition, the board may, by resolution, reconstitute
11 the authority as a single-county body. With a two-thirds vote of the
12 entire membership of the voting members, the board may also dissolve
13 the authority.

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