

---

SENATE BILL 6799

---

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senator B. Sheldon

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the program for agency coordinated  
2 transportation; amending RCW 47.06B.015 and 47.06B.040; reenacting and  
3 amending RCW 47.06B.030; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.06B.015 and 1999 c 385 s 3 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 In order to increase efficiency, to reduce waste and duplication,  
8 to enable people to access social and health services, to provide a  
9 basic level of mobility, and to extend and improve transportation  
10 services to people with special transportation needs, the state shall  
11 implement the Program for Agency Coordinated Transportation. The  
12 program will improve transportation efficiency and effectiveness to  
13 maximize the use of community resources so that more people can be  
14 served within available funding levels.

15 The Program for Agency Coordinated Transportation will facilitate  
16 a state-wide approach to coordination and will support the development  
17 of community-based coordinated transportation systems (~~that exhibit~~)  
18 with a goal for the following characteristics:

- 1 (1) Organizations serving persons with special transportation needs  
2 share responsibility for ensuring that customers can access services.
- 3 (2) There is a single entry process for customers to use to have  
4 trips arranged and scheduled, so the customer does not have to contact  
5 different locations based on which sponsoring agency or program is  
6 paying for the trip.
- 7 (3) A process is in place so that when decisions are made by  
8 service organizations on facility siting or program policy  
9 implementation, the costs of client transportation and the potential  
10 effects on the client transportation costs of other agencies or  
11 programs are considered. Affected agencies are given an opportunity to  
12 influence the decision if the potential impact is negative.
- 13 (4) Open local market mechanisms (~~(give all)~~) giving all  
14 transportation brokers and providers who meet minimum standards an  
15 opportunity to participate in the program(~~(, and, in addition, allow~~  
16 ~~for cost comparisons so that purchasers can select)~~) through the  
17 bidding process allowing for the selection of the least expensive trip  
18 most appropriate to the customer's needs.
- 19 (5) There is flexibility in using the available vehicles in a  
20 community so that the ability to transport people is not restricted by  
21 categorical claims to vehicles.
- 22 (6) There is maximum sharing of operating facilities and  
23 administrative services, to avoid duplication of costly program  
24 elements.
- 25 (7) Trip sponsors and service providers have agreed on a process  
26 for allocating costs and billing when they share use of vehicles.
- 27 (8) Minimum standards exist for at least safety, driver training,  
28 maintenance, vehicles, and technology to eliminate barriers that may  
29 prevent sponsors from using each other's vehicles or serving each  
30 other's clients.
- 31 (9) The system is user friendly. The fact that the system is  
32 supported by a multitude of programs and agencies with different  
33 eligibility, contracting, service delivery, payment, and funding  
34 structures does not negatively affect the customer's ability to access  
35 service.
- 36 (10) Support is provided for research, technology improvements, and  
37 sharing of best practices from other communities, so that the system  
38 can be continually improved.

1 (11) There are performance goals and an evaluation process that  
2 leads to continuous system improvement.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.06B.030 and 1999 c 385 s 5 and 1999 c 372 s 13 are  
4 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

5 To assure implementation of the Program for Agency Coordinated  
6 Transportation, the council, in coordination with stakeholders, shall:

7 (1) Develop guidelines for local planning of coordinated  
8 transportation in accordance with this chapter;

9 (2) Initiate local planning processes by contacting the board of  
10 commissioners and county councils in each county and encouraging them  
11 to convene local (~~planning~~) community forums for the purpose of  
12 planning and implementing special needs coordinated transportation  
13 programs at the community level;

14 (3) Work with local community forums to designate a local lead  
15 organization that shall cooperate and coordinate with private and  
16 nonprofit transportation brokers and providers, local public  
17 transportation agencies, local governments, and user groups;

18 (4) Provide a forum at the state level in which state agencies will  
19 discuss and resolve coordination issues and program policy issues that  
20 may impact transportation coordination and costs;

21 (5) Provide guidelines for state agencies to use in creating  
22 policies, rules, or procedures to encourage the participation of their  
23 constituents in community-based planning and coordination, in  
24 accordance with this chapter;

25 (6) Facilitate state-level discussion and action on problems and  
26 barriers identified by the local forums that can only be resolved at  
27 either the state or federal level;

28 (7) Develop and test models for determining the impacts of facility  
29 siting and program policy decisions on transportation costs;

30 (8) Develop methodologies and provide support to local and state  
31 agencies in identifying transportation costs;

32 (9) Develop guidelines for setting performance measures and  
33 evaluating performance;

34 (10) Develop monitoring reporting criteria and processes to assess  
35 state and local level of participation with this chapter;

36 (11) Administer and manage grant funds to develop, test, and  
37 facilitate the implementation of coordinated systems;

1 (12) Develop minimum standards for safety, driver training, and  
2 vehicles, and provide models for processes and technology to support  
3 coordinated service delivery systems;

4 (13) Provide a clearinghouse for sharing information about  
5 transportation coordination best practices and experiences;

6 (14) Promote research and development of methods and tools to  
7 improve the performance of transportation coordination in the state;

8 (15) Provide technical assistance and support to communities;

9 (16) Facilitate, monitor, provide funding as available, and give  
10 technical support to local planning processes;

11 (17) Form, convene, and give staff support to stakeholder work  
12 groups as needed to continue work on removing barriers to coordinated  
13 transportation;

14 (18) Advocate for the coordination of transportation for people  
15 with special transportation needs at the federal, state, and local  
16 levels;

17 (19) Recommend to the legislature changes in laws to assist  
18 coordination of transportation services;

19 (20) Petition the office of financial management to make whatever  
20 changes are deemed necessary to identify transportation costs in all  
21 executive agency budgets;

22 (21) Report to the legislature by December 1, 2000, on council  
23 activities including, but not limited to, the progress of community  
24 planning processes, what demonstration projects have been undertaken,  
25 how coordination affected service levels, and whether these efforts  
26 produced savings that allowed expansion of services. Reports must be  
27 made once every two years thereafter, and other times as the council  
28 deems necessary.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.06B.040 and 1999 c 385 s 6 are each amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 The council may request, and may require as a condition of  
32 receiving coordination grants, selected county governments to convene  
33 local (~~(planning)~~) community forums and invite participation of all  
34 entities, including tribal governments, that serve or transport persons  
35 with special transportation needs. Counties are encouraged to  
36 coordinate and combine their forums and planning processes with other  
37 counties, as they find it appropriate. The local community forums  
38 must:

- 1 (1) Designate a lead organization to facilitate the community  
2 planning process on an ongoing basis;
- 3 (2) Identify functional boundaries for the local coordinated  
4 transportation system;
- 5 (3) Clarify roles and responsibilities of the various participants;
- 6 (4) Identify community resources and needs;
- 7 (5) Prepare a plan for developing a coordinated transportation  
8 system that meets the intent of this chapter, addresses community  
9 needs, and efficiently uses community resources to address unmet needs;
- 10 (6) Implement the community coordinated transportation plan;
- 11 (7) Develop performance measures consistent with council  
12 guidelines;
- 13 (8) Develop a reporting process consistent with council guidelines;
- 14 (9) Raise issues and barriers to the council when resolution is  
15 needed at either the state or federal level;
- 16 (10) Develop a process for open discussion and input on local  
17 policy and facility siting decisions that may have an impact on the  
18 special needs transportation costs and service delivery of other  
19 programs and agencies in the community.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act expire June  
21 30, 2008.

--- END ---