

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESB 5245

C 351 L 03
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Involving legislators in transportation planning.

Sponsors: Senators Horn, Haugen, Mulliken, Finkbeiner, Oke, Swecker, Esser, Prentice, Benton and Kohl-Welles.

Senate Committee on Highways & Transportation
House Committee on Transportation

Background: There are 14 regional transportation planning organizations (RTPOs) in Washington State. Each RTPO has a policy board that provides direction on the implementation of their six-year transportation improvement program (TIP) and their regional transportation plan. An RTPO policy board is required to include members from cities, counties, port districts, transit districts, major employers and the Department of Transportation.

The six-year TIP proposes regionally significant transportation projects and a financial plan that demonstrates how the program is to be funded. The six-year TIP is updated at least every two years, but can be amended during the interim.

The regional transportation planning process establishes standards for a regional transportation plan, coordination between RTPOs, and, in conjunction with state planning efforts, identifies and plans improvements that are important to moving people and goods on a regional and statewide basis.

An RTPO that borders another state may have voting members that reside in the adjacent state. The cross-boundary members are allowed to promote transportation planning coordination across state lines.

Summary: RTPO board membership is modified. Any member of the House of Representatives or the Senate whose districts are wholly, or partly, within the boundaries of the regional transportation planning organization are considered ex-officio, nonvoting board members of the regional transportation planning organization. This does not preclude legislators from becoming full-time, voting board members.

A requirement is added that when the members of the Regional Transportation Planning Organization take action on matters that solely affect Washington State, there must be a majority vote of the Washington residents serving as members of the RTPO before the matter may be adopted.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate 45 4

House 89 3 (House amended)
Senate 44 2 (Senate concurred)

Effective: July 27, 2003