
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2124

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Murray, Jarrett, Simpson, Hudgins, Upthegrove, Sells, Wallace, Dickerson, B. Sullivan, Moeller, Kenney and Hasegawa)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing state participation in public
2 transportation service and planning; amending RCW 47.01.081, 47.66.030,
3 and 47.66.040; adding new sections to chapter 47.01 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 47.66 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state needs
7 to reestablish itself as a leader in public transportation.

8 The legislature also finds that increased demands on transportation
9 resources require increased coordination among public transportation
10 service providers.

11 The legislature also finds that the efficiency of transportation
12 corridors would be enhanced by a more proactive and integrated approach
13 to public transportation service delivery and planning.

14 The legislature also finds that the state department of
15 transportation is in the unique position of being able to improve
16 connectivity between service territories of transit agencies and modes
17 of transportation.

18 The legislature also finds that the state should be a center of

1 excellence in public transportation planning and research and providing
2 technical assistance to transit agencies serving urban, suburban, and
3 rural areas.

4 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that the state
5 department of transportation be a leader in public transportation. The
6 department shall play a guiding role in coordinating decentralized
7 public transportation services, increasing connectivity between them,
8 advocating for public transportation as a means to increase corridor
9 efficiency, and increasing the integration of public transportation and
10 the highway system.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.01.081 and 1984 c 48 s 1 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (1) Initially the department shall be organized into divisions,
14 including the division of highways, the division of public
15 transportation, the division of aeronautics, the division of marine
16 transportation, and the division of transportation planning and budget.

17 (2) The secretary may reorganize divisions in order to attain the
18 maximum possible efficiency in the operation of the department. Each
19 division shall be headed by an assistant secretary to be appointed by
20 the secretary. The secretary may also appoint a deputy secretary as
21 may be needed for the performance of the duties and functions vested in
22 the department and may also appoint up to twelve ferry system
23 management positions as defined in RCW 47.64.011. The secretary may
24 delegate to officers within the several divisions of the department
25 authority to employ personnel necessary to discharge the
26 responsibilities of the department. The secretary shall establish an
27 office of transit mobility to strive to ensure the integration of
28 decentralized public transportation services with the state
29 transportation system. The director of the office must report directly
30 to the secretary.

31 (3) The officers appointed under this section shall be exempt from
32 the provisions of the state civil service law and shall be paid
33 salaries to be fixed by the governor in accordance with the procedure
34 established by law for the fixing of salaries for officers exempt from
35 the operation of the state civil service law.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The primary goals of the office of transit mobility are to
4 facilitate: (a) Connection and coordination of transit services and
5 planning; and (b) maximizing opportunities to use public transportation
6 to improve the efficiency of transportation corridors.

7 (2) The duties of the office include, but are not limited to, the
8 following:

9 (a) Developing a statewide strategic plan that creates common goals
10 for transit agencies and reduces competing plans for cross-
11 jurisdictional service;

12 (b) Developing a park and ride lot program;

13 (c) Encouraging long-range transit planning;

14 (d) Providing public transportation expertise to improve linkages
15 between regional transportation planning organizations and transit
16 agencies;

17 (e) Strengthening policies for inclusion of transit and
18 transportation demand management strategies in route development,
19 corridor plan standards, and budget proposals;

20 (f) Providing staff assistance to the regional mobility steering
21 committee established in section 5 of this act. Periodically, the
22 office of transit mobility shall report to the steering committee,
23 identifying needs for increased transit and multimodal coordination and
24 corridor efficiency;

25 (g) Developing standards to integrate transit and demand management
26 strategies with regional and local land use plans in order to reduce
27 traffic and improve mobility and access;

28 (h) Producing recommendations for the public transportation section
29 of the Washington transportation plan; and

30 (i) Participating in all aspects of corridor planning, including
31 freight planning, ferry system planning, and passenger rail planning.

32 (3) In forming the office, the secretary shall use existing
33 resources to the greatest extent possible. Specifically, the office of
34 transit mobility shall take over functions as appropriate from the
35 division of public transportation and rail and the urban planning
36 office, including but not limited to the administration of the commute
37 trip reduction program, special needs transportation grants, planning

1 and construction of high-occupancy vehicle lanes, and planning and
2 construction of high-occupancy toll lanes.

3 (4) The office of transit mobility shall establish measurable
4 performance objectives for evaluating the success of its initiatives
5 and progress toward accomplishing the overall goals of the office. The
6 office is subject to review by the transportation performance audit
7 board.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 Local and regional transportation agencies shall adopt common
11 transportation goals. The office of transit mobility shall review
12 local and regional transportation plans, including plans required under
13 RCW 35.58.2795, 36.70A.070(6), 36.70A.210, and 47.80.023, to provide
14 for the efficient integration of multimodal and multijurisdictional
15 transportation planning.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 47.66 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) The regional mobility steering committee is created. The
19 committee is composed of twelve voting members and four nonvoting,
20 legislative members.

21 (2) The twelve voting members are the secretary of transportation
22 or a designee, the director of the transportation improvement board or
23 a designee, and ten members appointed by the governor as follows:

24 (a) Three representatives of transit agencies, one from an urban
25 area with a population more than five hundred thousand, one from an
26 area with a population of one hundred thousand to five hundred
27 thousand, and one from an area with a population less than one hundred
28 thousand;

29 (b) One representative of nonmotorized transportation interests;

30 (c) One representative of transit users;

31 (d) One representative of commute trip reduction users;

32 (e) One representative from a regional transportation planning
33 organization;

34 (f) One representative of counties;

35 (g) One representative of cities; and

1 (h) One representative from a labor union that represents the most
2 transit workers in this state.

3 (3) The four nonvoting members are legislators as follows:

4 (a) Two members from the house of representatives, one from each of
5 the two largest caucuses, appointed by the speaker of the house of
6 representatives; and

7 (b) Two members from the senate, one from each of the two largest
8 caucuses, appointed by the president of the senate.

9 (4) Gubernatorial appointees of the committee serve two-year terms.
10 Members may not receive compensation for their service on the
11 committee, but will be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses
12 incurred in performing their duties as members as set forth in RCW
13 43.03.220.

14 (5) The secretary of transportation or a designee shall serve as
15 the chair.

16 **Sec. 6.** RCW 47.66.030 and 1996 c 49 s 3 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 ~~((1)(a))~~ The ~~((transportation improvement board))~~ regional
19 mobility steering committee is authorized and responsible for the final
20 selection of programs and projects funded from the central Puget Sound
21 public transportation account; public transportation systems account;
22 and ~~((the intermodal surface transportation and efficiency act of 1991,~~
23 ~~surface transportation program, statewide competitive))~~ twenty-two
24 percent of the surface transportation program flexible funds authorized
25 by the Transportation Equity Act for the Twenty-first Century and the
26 successor to that act.

27 ~~((b))~~ The ~~((board))~~ steering committee may establish
28 subcommittees as well as technical advisory committees to carry out the
29 mandates of this chapter.

30 ~~((2) Expenses of the board, including administrative expenses for~~
31 ~~managing the program, shall be paid in accordance with RCW 47.26.140.)~~

32 **Sec. 7.** RCW 47.66.040 and 1995 c 269 s 2606 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The ~~((transportation improvement board))~~ regional mobility
35 steering committee shall select programs and projects based on a

1 competitive process consistent with the mandates governing each account
2 or source of funds. The competition shall be consistent with the
3 following criteria:

- 4 (a) Local, regional, and state transportation plans;
- 5 (b) Local transit development plans; and
- 6 (c) Local comprehensive land use plans.

7 (2) The following criteria shall be considered by the ((board))
8 steering committee in selecting programs and projects:

9 (a) Objectives of the growth management act, the high capacity
10 transportation act, the commute trip reduction act, transportation
11 demand management programs, federal and state air quality requirements,
12 and federal Americans with Disabilities Act and related state
13 accessibility requirements; and

14 (b) Enhancing the efficiency of regional corridors in moving people
15 among jurisdictions and modes of transportation, energy efficiency
16 issues, reducing delay for people and goods, freight and goods movement
17 as related to economic development, regional significance, rural
18 isolation, the leveraging of other funds ((~~including funds administered~~
19 ~~by this board~~)), and safety and security issues.

20 (3) The ((board)) steering committee shall determine the
21 appropriate level of local match required for each program and project
22 based on the source of funds.

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