

ESSB 6771 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Transportation

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature implemented a policy of
4 allowing regional entities to propose ballot measures to fund state
5 highways by creating a regional transportation investment district in
6 2002. After years of costly delay, a joint ballot measure was proposed
7 to the voters to fund state highways and transit by regional taxation
8 in central Puget Sound in November 2007, and it was rejected.

9 The legislature acknowledges that it has historically been the
10 responsibility of the state to prioritize and fund the costs of
11 repairs, replacement, and construction of state transportation
12 facilities. However, the state continues to be challenged by
13 increasing demands for transportation projects that address safety,
14 maintenance, and congestion issues. The ongoing and significant rise
15 in construction and fuel costs, combined with projected declines in
16 state and federal resources, has prompted local leaders to consider
17 implementing local and regional financing tools to help fund
18 construction of state and local transportation facilities located
19 within their jurisdictions.

20 It is therefore the intent of the legislature to determine whether
21 regional financing of state-owned transportation projects and
22 facilities can be successfully implemented by regional transportation
23 investment districts, including whether such existing tools should be
24 temporarily suspended or permanently repealed and whether other
25 financing tools should be provided to local jurisdictions.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.120 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 (1) The joint transportation committee shall conduct a study that

1 analyzes regional financing of state-owned facilities by regional
2 transportation investment districts. The study shall include, but is
3 not limited to, an analysis of the following issues:

4 (a) The effects that a voter-approved regional finance plan for a
5 specific set of transportation projects may have on future statewide
6 transportation investments;

7 (b) The additional cost to individuals living within a regional
8 transportation investment district, in excess of the baseline costs
9 such individuals pay for transportation infrastructure across the
10 state, for state highways within the district;

11 (c) A comparison of the additional cost identified in (b) of this
12 subsection to the cost of a statewide transportation revenue proposal
13 containing funding for the same set of projects and other high priority
14 statewide projects; and

15 (d) The feasibility of and stakeholder interest level in:

16 (i) Eliminating the authority to establish regional transportation
17 investment districts temporarily or permanently; and

18 (ii) Creating similar special purpose districts statewide or
19 expanding the authority of existing similar special purpose districts
20 statewide including, but not limited to, transportation benefit
21 districts authorized under chapter 36.73 RCW.

22 (2) In conducting the study identified in subsection (1) of this
23 section, the joint transportation committee must consult with
24 appropriate local and regional stakeholders, including applicable
25 counties, cities, transit agencies, and regional transportation
26 planning organizations. The committee shall submit a final report,
27 including recommendations, to the transportation committees of the
28 legislature and the governor by December 1, 2008.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Funding for the study described in section
30 2 of this act shall be provided from unexpended funding previously
31 provided to the joint transportation committee for an analysis of
32 implementing governance in central Puget Sound in the 2007
33 transportation appropriations act.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires January 1, 2010."

35 Correct the title.

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