
Transportation Committee

HB 3068

Brief Description: Establishing high-capacity transportation corridor areas.

Sponsors: Representatives Clibborn, Fromhold, Moeller, Appleton, Roberts and Wood.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes certain transit agencies to create one or more new taxing districts within its boundaries for the purpose of establishing, financing, and operating high capacity transportation services.

Hearing Date: 2/4/08

Staff: Kathryn Leathers (786-7114).

Background:

In the central Puget Sound region, high capacity transportation (HCT) systems may be established and financed by a regional transit authority or a regional transportation investment district. Outside of the central Puget Sound region, the HCT systems may be established only in Clark, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima counties, by city-owned transits, county transportation authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, and public transportation benefit areas.

High capacity transportation service means a system of public transportation services within an urbanized region operating principally on exclusive rights of way, and the supporting services and facilities necessary to implement the system, including interim express services and high occupancy vehicle lanes, which, taken as a whole, provides a substantially higher level of passenger capacity, speed, and service frequency than traditional public transportation systems operating principally in general purpose roadways.

Summary of Bill:

Certain transit agencies are authorized to create one or more special purpose districts (subdistrict) within their existing boundaries for the purpose of establishing, financing, and operating high capacity transportation (HCT) services.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The transit agencies authorized to create one or more subdistricts include city-owned transits, county transportation authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, and public transportation benefit areas established in Clark, Kitsap, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima counties. Creation of a HCT subdistrict is prohibited in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. The boundaries of a HCT subdistrict may include all or a portion of the boundaries of the transit agency, and may include all or a portion of a town or city within the transit agency's boundaries.

A HCT subdistrict is governed by the existing governing body of the transit agency authorized to create the subdistrict. A HCT subdistrict possesses the same taxing authority as is available to any agency authorized to establish and finance a HCT system, and includes: (a) an employee tax of up to \$2 per month per employee; (b) rental car sales and use tax not to exceed 2.172 percent; and (c) sales and use tax not to exceed 0.9 percent. Taxes imposed for HCT purposes are in addition to taxes permitted to be imposed by a transit agency for other public transportation purposes. If multiple HCT subdistricts are created in a single area, only one full set of HCT taxes may be imposed in a single district. All taxes require voter approval.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.