
SENATE BILL 5159

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senator Jacobsen

Read first time 01/11/2007. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing personal rapid transit and magnetic
2 levitation transit systems; amending RCW 81.104.015; adding new
3 sections to chapter 81.104 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 81.104.015 and 1999 c 202 s 9 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
8 this section apply throughout this chapter.

9 (1) "High-capacity transportation system" means a system of public
10 transportation services within an urbanized region operating
11 principally on exclusive rights of way, and the supporting services and
12 facilities necessary to implement such a system, including interim
13 express services and high occupancy vehicle lanes, which taken as a
14 whole, provides a substantially higher level of passenger capacity,
15 speed, and service frequency than traditional public transportation
16 systems operating principally in general purpose roadways. "High-
17 capacity transportation system" also includes magnetic levitation and
18 personal rapid transit systems.

1 (2) "Rail fixed guideway system" means a light, heavy, or rapid
2 rail system, monorail, inclined plane, funicular, trolley, or other
3 fixed rail guideway component of a high-capacity transportation system
4 that is not regulated by the Federal Railroad Administration, or its
5 successor. "Rail fixed guideway system" does not mean elevators,
6 moving sidewalks or stairs, and vehicles suspended from aerial cables,
7 unless they are an integral component of a station served by a rail
8 fixed guideway system.

9 (3) "Regional transit system" means a high-capacity transportation
10 system under the jurisdiction of one or more transit agencies except
11 where a regional transit authority created under chapter 81.112 RCW
12 exists, in which case "regional transit system" means the high-capacity
13 transportation system under the jurisdiction of a regional transit
14 authority.

15 (4) "Transit agency" means city-owned transit systems, county
16 transportation authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, and
17 public transportation benefit areas.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 81.104 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 Counties are authorized to impose with voter approval, by a simple
21 majority of those voting, dedicated funding sources for magnetic
22 levitation and personal rapid transit systems as set forth in RCW
23 81.104.150, 81.104.160, and 81.104.170. The maximum tax rate
24 authorized in RCW 81.104.150, 81.104.160, and 81.104.170 is the maximum
25 allowable rate that may be imposed by all entities in a county for
26 magnetic levitation and personal rapid transit systems.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 81.104 RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 (1) Counties implementing magnetic levitation and personal rapid
30 transit systems are exempt from the population requirements in RCW
31 81.104.030.

32 (2) Counties implementing magnetic levitation and personal rapid
33 transit systems are authorized to utilize public-private partnerships.

34 (3) The department of transportation shall develop, implement, and
35 administer a grant program for state and federal funding identified for
36 magnetic levitation systems and personal rapid transit systems. The

1 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint four
2 representatives, two from each legislative caucus, the president of the
3 senate shall appoint four senators, two from each legislative caucus,
4 and the governor shall appoint a business person from private industry
5 and a person with academic credentials in magnetic levitation and
6 personal rapid transit systems technology to work with the department
7 of transportation to develop the criteria for the grant program. To
8 obtain grants through the grant program, entities shall submit magnetic
9 levitation and personal rapid transit systems technology design
10 proposals to the department of transportation and compete for grant
11 funding.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect August 1, 2007.

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