
HOUSE BILL 1873

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Ericksen, Haler, Priest, Rodne, Hinkle, Anderson, Parker, Bailey, Hope, Johnson, Herrera, Warnick, and Smith

Read first time 01/30/09. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a joint select committee on high-
2 speed rail; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A joint select committee on high-speed
5 rail is established. The committee shall consider, but is not limited
6 to, developing a plan to build and finance a high-speed rail network
7 running from Bellingham to Portland, Oregon and from Seattle to
8 Spokane. The high-speed rail network must be capable of traveling at
9 speeds of least two hundred twenty-five miles per hour.

10 (2) The speaker of the house of representatives and the majority
11 leader of the senate shall select two members from each of the two
12 largest caucuses in the house of representatives and each of the two
13 largest caucuses in the senate to serve on the committee.

14 (3) The committee may seek assistance from other members of the
15 senate and the house of representatives and other interested parties to
16 provide advice and technical assistance.

17 (4) Staff support for the committee must be provided by the house
18 of representatives office of program research and the senate committee
19 services.

1 (5) Legislative members of the committee may be reimbursed for
2 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

3 (6) The expenses of the committee must be paid jointly by the
4 senate and the house of representatives. Committee expenditures are
5 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
6 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
7 successor committees.

8 (7) The committee shall examine and analyze the following items:

9 (a) The best available technology for a high-speed rail network
10 based on the following criteria:

11 (i) Cost per mile for operation and construction;

12 (ii) Long-term costs;

13 (iii) Best top speed;

14 (iv) Flexibility;

15 (v) Ability to handle freight cargo;

16 (vi) Energy consumption; and

17 (vii) Reliability;

18 (b) Identification of potential rights-of-way and routes for new
19 construction;

20 (c) Identification of public-private financing opportunities
21 including:

22 (i) Design/build/operate;

23 (ii) Sale of development rights;

24 (iii) The potential for private ownership of all or portions of a
25 new rail system, the operations of a rail system, and operations of
26 ancillary services associated with the rail line; and

27 (iv) Potential operating costs and public subsidies;

28 (d) Examination of opportunities to colocate high-speed rail
29 network tracks with a new power grid infrastructure;

30 (e) Quantification of economic development potential of
31 constructing new rail lines.

32 (8) The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to
33 the transportation committees of the house of representatives and the
34 senate by December 1, 2010.

35 (9) This section expires February 1, 2011.

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