
HOUSE BILL 1877

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Hargrove, Freeman, Hurst, Blake, Kristiansen,
Rodne, and O'Ban

Read first time 02/13/13. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to regional transit authority boards; and amending
2 RCW 81.112.040.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 81.112.040 and 1994 c 109 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 ~~((1) The regional transit authority shall be governed by a board~~
7 ~~consisting of representatives appointed by the county executive and~~
8 ~~confirmed by the council or other legislative authority of each member~~
9 ~~county. Membership shall be based on population from that portion of~~
10 ~~each county which lies within the service area. Board members shall be~~
11 ~~appointed initially on the basis of one for each one hundred forty five~~
12 ~~thousand population within the county. Such appointments shall be made~~
13 ~~following consultation with city and town jurisdictions within the~~
14 ~~service area. In addition, the secretary of transportation or the~~
15 ~~secretary's designee shall serve as a member of the board and may have~~
16 ~~voting status with approval of a majority of the other members of the~~
17 ~~board. Only board members, not including alternates or designees, may~~
18 ~~cast votes.~~

1 ~~Each member of the board, except the secretary of transportation or~~
2 ~~the secretary's designee, shall be:~~

3 ~~(a) An elected official who serves on the legislative authority of~~
4 ~~a city or as mayor of a city within the boundaries of the authority;~~

5 ~~(b) On the legislative authority of the county, if fifty percent of~~
6 ~~the population of the legislative official's district is within the~~
7 ~~authority boundaries; or~~

8 ~~(c) A county executive from a member county within the authority~~
9 ~~boundaries.~~

10 ~~When making appointments, each county executive shall ensure that~~
11 ~~representation on the board includes an elected city official~~
12 ~~representing the largest city in each county and assures proportional~~
13 ~~representation from other cities, and representation from~~
14 ~~unincorporated areas of each county within the service area. At least~~
15 ~~one-half of all appointees from each county shall serve on the~~
16 ~~governing authority of a public transportation system.~~

17 ~~Members appointed from each county shall serve staggered four-year~~
18 ~~terms. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of~~
19 ~~the unexpired term of the position being vacated.~~

20 ~~The governing board shall be reconstituted, with regard to the~~
21 ~~number of representatives from each county, on a population basis,~~
22 ~~using the official office of financial management population estimates,~~
23 ~~five years after its initial formation and, at minimum, in the year~~
24 ~~following each official federal census. The board membership may be~~
25 ~~reduced, maintained, or expanded to reflect population changes but~~
26 ~~under no circumstances may the board membership exceed twenty-five.~~

27 ~~(2) Major decisions of the authority shall require a favorable vote~~
28 ~~of two-thirds of the entire membership of the voting members. "Major~~
29 ~~decisions" include at least the following: System plan adoption and~~
30 ~~amendment; system phasing decisions; annual budget adoption;~~
31 ~~authorization of annexations; modification of board composition; and~~
32 ~~executive director employment.~~

33 ~~(3) Each member of the board is eligible to be reimbursed for~~
34 ~~travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 and to~~
35 ~~receive compensation as provided in RCW 43.03.250.)~~

36 (1)(a) A regional transit authority must be governed by a board
37 consisting of five board members, each representing an approximately

1 equal population. Within one hundred twenty days of the effective
2 date of this section, the regional transit authority must:

3 (i) Divide and number the regional transit authority into five
4 board member districts numbered one through five. The regional transit
5 authority must prepare and adopt a plan of board member districts as
6 required under and subject to RCW 29A.76.010 (3) through (6); and

7 (ii) Schedule an election of the board at the next general
8 municipal election if one is to be held more than ninety days but not
9 more than one hundred eighty days, or otherwise at a special election
10 to be held for that purpose in accordance with law, which must be
11 preceded by a primary election pursuant to law. The election of the
12 board must comply with Title 29A RCW.

13 (b) Following the adoption of a plan of board member districts, all
14 subsequently elected board members must be elected from the district
15 within which they reside. One board member must be elected from each
16 board member district, and a board member may not be elected from a
17 board member district in which another board member resides. Only
18 registered voters of a district may vote for the board member candidate
19 for that district.

20 (2) Board members must be elected by ballot and must hold office
21 for a term of four years and until a successor is elected and
22 qualified. Terms of board members must be staggered, and when
23 possible, not more than a majority of one must be elected to full terms
24 at any regular election.

25 (3) The initial terms of office for those elected at a first
26 election of all board members must be as follows: (a) A simple
27 majority of the persons who are elected receiving the greatest number
28 of votes must be elected to four-year terms of office if the election
29 is held in an even-numbered year, or three-year terms of office if the
30 election is held in an even-numbered year; and (b) the other persons
31 who are elected as board members must be elected to two-year terms of
32 office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or one-year
33 terms of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The
34 newly elected board members must take office immediately when they are
35 elected and qualified, but the length of their terms of office is
36 calculated from the first day of January in the year following the
37 election. Thereafter, each person elected as a board member must be
38 elected to a four-year term of office. Each board member must serve

1 until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office. Upon
2 the election and qualification of a new board, the first board created
3 under this section is terminated.

4 (4) In case of a vacancy, a majority of the board must fill the
5 vacancy by appointment within ninety days. An appointee to fill a
6 vacancy must meet the requirements provided by law and must serve for
7 the unexpired term, at which time a successor must be elected for the
8 unexpired term. If the board is unable to fill the vacancy within
9 ninety days, the governor must fill the vacancy by appointment subject
10 to the requirements of this section.

11 (5) Regular meetings of the board must be held monthly or more
12 often at a time as determined by the board by resolution or as
13 prescribed by the bylaws of the board. Special meetings may be held as
14 circumstances may demand.

15 (6) A majority of all members of the board constitutes a quorum.
16 Absence of any board member from four consecutive regular meetings of
17 the board, unless on account of sickness or authorized by resolution by
18 the board, is sufficient cause for the remaining members of the board
19 to declare by resolution that the board member position is vacated.
20 Vacancies may also occur as provided in RCW 42.12.010.

21 (7) Each member of the board is eligible to be reimbursed for
22 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 and to
23 receive compensation as provided in RCW 43.03.250.

24 (8)(a) The regional transit authority must redistrict its districts
25 no later than eight months after any of the following:

26 (i) The receipt of federal decennial census data from the
27 redistricting commission established in RCW 44.05.030; or

28 (ii) The transfer of territory to or from the regional transit
29 authority.

30 (b) Any change to a district boundary must be submitted to the
31 auditor of the county where the boundary change is located within
32 thirty days of approval of the boundary change by the regional transit
33 authority.

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