

---

HOUSE BILL 1838

---

State of Washington                      68th Legislature                      2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Fey, Barkis, Berg, and Ortiz-Self

Read first time 02/20/23. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to transferring the responsibilities for the  
2 transportation revenue forecast for the transportation budget to the  
3 economic and revenue forecast council; amending RCW 82.33.010 and  
4 82.33.040; reenacting and amending RCW 82.33.020; and repealing RCW  
5 43.88.125.

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

7            **Sec. 1.** RCW 82.33.010 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 8 s 2 are each  
8 amended to read as follows:

9            (1) (a) The economic and revenue forecast council is hereby  
10 created. The council shall consist of (~~two individuals appointed by~~  
11 ~~the governor, the state treasurer, and four~~) the following members:

12            (i) The director of the office of financial management;

13            (ii) The state treasurer;

14            (iii) Four individuals, one of whom is appointed by the  
15 chairperson of each of the two largest political caucuses in the  
16 senate and house of representatives (~~.-The~~), who shall sit with the  
17 council and serve as voting members only at such time as the  
18 consideration of the economic and revenue forecast for the operating  
19 budget and the state budget outlook;

20            (iv) The director of the department of revenue, who shall sit  
21 with the council and serve as a voting member only at such times as

1 the consideration of the economic and revenue forecast for the  
2 operating budget and the state budget outlook;

3 (v) The chair and ranking member of the house transportation  
4 committee, and chair and ranking member of the senate transportation  
5 committee, who shall sit with the council and serve as voting members  
6 only at such time as the consideration of the transportation revenue  
7 forecast for the transportation budget; and

8 (vi) The director of the department of licensing, who shall sit  
9 with the council and serve as a voting member only at such times as  
10 the consideration of the transportation revenue forecast for the  
11 transportation budget.

12 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, the chair of  
13 the council shall be selected from among the four caucus appointees.  
14 The council may select such other officers as the members deem  
15 necessary.

16 (c) The chair of the council when conducting business related to  
17 the transportation revenue forecast for the transportation budget  
18 shall be selected from among the four legislative appointees from the  
19 transportation budget committees.

20 (d) A quorum of the council consists of a majority of members  
21 appointed for the business to be conducted.

22 (2) The council shall employ an economic and revenue forecast  
23 supervisor to supervise the preparation of all economic and revenue  
24 forecasts and the presentation of state budget outlooks. As used in  
25 this chapter, "supervisor" means the economic and revenue forecast  
26 supervisor. Approval by an affirmative vote of at least ~~((five))~~  
27 eight members of the council is required for any decisions regarding  
28 employment of the supervisor. For purposes of this vote, all members  
29 of the council set forth in subsection (1)(a) of this section are  
30 voting members. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after  
31 each term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-  
32 year term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's  
33 term by one year. The council may fix the compensation of the  
34 supervisor. The supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to  
35 accomplish the purposes of this section.

36 (3) The economic and revenue forecast council shall oversee  
37 ~~((the))~~ :

38 (a) The preparation of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at  
39 least five members eligible to vote for the economic and revenue  
40 forecast for the operating budget, the official, optimistic, and

1 pessimistic state economic and revenue forecasts prepared under RCW  
2 82.33.020; and

3 (b) The preparation of and approval, by an affirmative vote of at  
4 least five members of those members eligible to vote for, the  
5 transportation revenue forecast for the transportation budget  
6 prepared under RCW 82.33.020.

7 If the council is unable to approve ((a)) any forecast before a  
8 date required in RCW 82.33.020, the supervisor shall submit the  
9 forecast without approval and the forecast shall have the same effect  
10 as if approved by the council.

11 (4) The economic and revenue forecast council shall oversee the  
12 preparation of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least five  
13 members of those members eligible to vote for, the state budget  
14 outlook prepared under RCW 82.33.060. If the council is unable to  
15 approve a state budget outlook before a date required in RCW  
16 82.33.060, the supervisor shall submit the outlook prepared under RCW  
17 82.33.060 without approval and the outlook shall have the same effect  
18 as if approved by the council.

19 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for  
20 approval of the official economic and revenue forecast ((e)) for the  
21 operating budget, the state budget outlook, or the transportation  
22 revenue forecast for the transportation budget may request, and the  
23 supervisor shall provide, an alternative economic and revenue  
24 forecast or state budget outlook based on assumptions specified by  
25 the member including, for purposes of the state budget outlook,  
26 revenues to and expenditures from additional funds.

27 (6) Members of the economic and revenue forecast council shall  
28 serve without additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for  
29 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending  
30 sessions of the council or on official business authorized by the  
31 council. Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed  
32 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

33 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.33.020 and 2015 c 3 s 14 are each reenacted and  
34 amended to read as follows:

35 (1) Four times each year the supervisor must prepare, subject to  
36 the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council under RCW  
37 82.33.010:

38 (a) An official state economic and revenue forecast;

1 (b) An unofficial state economic and revenue forecast based on  
2 optimistic economic and revenue projections; (~~and~~)

3 (c) An unofficial state economic and revenue forecast based on  
4 pessimistic economic and revenue projections; and

5 (d) Beginning with the September 2024 forecast, an official  
6 transportation revenue forecast for the transportation budget. For  
7 purposes of this subsection, the transportation revenue forecast for  
8 the transportation budget includes, but is not limited to,  
9 transportation taxes, vehicle fees, drivers' fees, fares and tolls,  
10 and aircraft and vessel fees.

11 (2) The supervisor must submit forecasts prepared under this  
12 section, along with any unofficial forecasts provided under RCW  
13 82.33.010, to the governor and the members of the (~~committees on~~)  
14 ways and means committee of the senate and appropriations committee  
15 of the house of representatives and the chairs of the committees on  
16 transportation of the senate and house of representatives, including  
17 one copy to the staff of each of the committees, on or before  
18 November 20th, February 20th in the even-numbered years, March 20th  
19 in the odd-numbered years, June 27th, and September 27th. (~~In fiscal~~  
20 ~~year 2015, the March 20th forecast shall be submitted on or before~~  
21 ~~February 20, 2015.)) All forecasts must be based on the most recent  
22 economic and revenue forecast council economic forecast. All  
23 forecasts must include both estimated receipts and estimated revenues  
24 in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles as  
25 provided by RCW 43.88.037. In odd-numbered years, the period covered  
26 by forecasts for the state general fund and related funds must cover  
27 the current fiscal biennium and the next ensuing fiscal biennium, and  
28 the period for the transportation related funds must cover the  
29 current fiscal biennium and the next two ensuing fiscal biennia. In  
30 even-numbered years, the period covered by the forecasts for the  
31 state general fund and related funds shall be current fiscal and the  
32 next two ensuing fiscal biennia, and the period for the  
33 transportation related funds shall be the current fiscal and the next  
34 two ensuing fiscal biennia.~~

35 (3) All agencies of state government must provide to the  
36 supervisor immediate access to all information relating to economic  
37 and revenue forecasts. Revenue collection information must be  
38 available to the supervisor the first business day following the  
39 conclusion of each collection period.

1 (4) The economic and revenue forecast supervisor and staff must  
2 (~~relocate and~~) share information, data, and files with the tax  
3 research section of the department of revenue and the department of  
4 licensing but may not duplicate the duties and functions of one  
5 another.

6 (5) As part of its forecasts under subsection (1) of this  
7 section, the supervisor must provide estimated revenue from tuition  
8 fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020.

9 (6) The economic and revenue forecast council must, in  
10 consultation with the economic and revenue forecast work group  
11 created in RCW 82.33.040, review the existing economic and revenue  
12 forecast council revenue model, data, and methodologies and in light  
13 of recent economic changes, engage outside experts if necessary, and  
14 recommend changes to the economic and revenue forecast council  
15 revenue forecasting process to increase confidence and promote  
16 accuracy in the revenue forecast. The recommendations are due by  
17 September 30, 2012, and every five years thereafter.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.33.040 and 1986 c 158 s 23 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) To promote the free flow of information and to promote  
21 legislative input in the preparation of forecasts, immediate access  
22 to all information relating to economic and revenue forecasts shall  
23 be available to the economic and revenue forecast work group, hereby  
24 created. Revenue collection information shall be available to the  
25 economic and revenue forecast work group the first business day  
26 following the (~~conclusion of each collection period~~) close of each  
27 fiscal month. The economic and revenue forecast work group shall  
28 consist of one staff member selected by the executive head or  
29 chairperson of each of the following agencies or committees:

- 30 (a) Department of revenue;  
31 (b) Office of financial management;  
32 (c) Legislative evaluation and accountability program committee;  
33 (d) Ways and means committee of the senate; (~~and~~)  
34 (e) (~~Ways and means~~) Appropriations committee of the house of  
35 representatives;  
36 (f) Transportation committee of the senate;  
37 (g) Transportation committee of the house of representatives;  
38 (h) Washington state department of transportation; and  
39 (i) Department of licensing.

1           (2) The economic and revenue forecast work group shall provide  
2 technical support to the economic and revenue forecast council.  
3 Meetings of the economic and revenue forecast work group may be  
4 called by any member of the group for the purpose of assisting the  
5 economic and revenue forecast council, reviewing the state economic  
6 and revenue forecasts, or reviewing monthly revenue collection data  
7 or for any other purpose which may assist the economic and revenue  
8 forecast council.

9           (3) Staff members from the Washington state department of  
10 transportation, department of licensing, transportation committee of  
11 the senate, and transportation committee of the house of  
12 representatives shall only provide technical support for the  
13 transportation revenue forecast for the transportation budget.

14           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.**   RCW 43.88.125 (Study of transportation-  
15 related funds or accounts—Coordination of activities) and 2005 c 319  
16 s 114, 1996 c 288 s 49, 1981 c 270 s 15, 1977 ex.s. c 235 s 6, 1975  
17 1st ex.s. c 293 s 19, & 1971 ex.s. c 195 s 2 are each repealed.

--- END ---