

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1418

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Transportation, April 4, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to adding two voting members that are transit users to the governing body of public transportation benefit areas.

**Brief Description:** Adding two voting members that are transit users to the governing body of public transportation benefit areas.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Timmons, Ramel, Duerr, Simmons, Parshley, Reed, Doglio, Pollet, Hill and Donaghy).

**Brief History:** Passed House: 3/5/25, 64-33.

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 3/20/25, 4/04/25 [DPA, DNP, w/oRec].

### Brief Summary of Amended Bill

- Allows public transportation benefit areas (PTBAs) to add two voting positions for transit users to their governing boards
- Requires that of the new positions appointed, one must use transit as their primary transportation mode, and one must represent a community based organization.
- Requires governing bodies to conduct meetings at times and places reasonably accessible by transit.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Lias, Chair; Lovick, Vice Chair; Ramos, Vice Chair; King, Ranking Member; Alvarado, Cortes, Harris, Holy, Krishnadasan, Lovelett, Nobles, Shewmake and Valdez.

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

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Christian, Fortunato, MacEwen and Wilson, J..

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Goehner, Assistant Ranking Member; Chapman.

**Staff:** Jenna Forty (786-7755)

**Background:** Public transportation benefit areas (PTBAs) are a type of municipal corporation structure to provide transit service within a county or a multicounty area. PTBAs are authorized to build and operate transit systems within the specified jurisdiction area, and most commonly operate fixed route services with complementary demand response and vanpool services. The boards of PTBAs are comprised of not more than nine elected officials representing cities and counties within the area, and not more than 15 for governing bodies of multicounty areas. PTBAs are also required to have nonvoting members of their governing bodies that must be recommended by labor organizations. The composition of PTBA governing bodies is reviewed every four years. Among the transit agencies in the state, PTBAs are the most common form of governance, comprising 21 of the 32 transit agencies statewide.

**Summary of Amended Bill:** Governing bodies of PTBAs are authorized to increase board size to 11, or 17 for multicounty areas, if they elect to add two voting positions for transit users. Transit-using members may not be employees of the transit agency governed by the PTBA. Of the two positions, one must primarily rely on public transportation as their transportation mode, and the second must represent a community based organization and occasionally use public transit. In the event that a community based organization representative within the PTBA jurisdiction is unavailable to serve, a second member relying primarily on public transportation systems may be appointed. Governing bodies are required to conduct meetings at times and places reasonably accessible by transit.

Transit-using voting members must be provided training on the Open Public Meetings Act, the Public Records Act, and ethics of municipal officers in accordance with the corresponding statutes.

Adding the transit using members is not applicable to any PTBA already retaining citizen positions on the governing body.

**EFFECT OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AMENDMENT(S):**

- Clarifies that transit-using voting members of a PTBA authority may not be employees of the transit agency operating under the PTBA authority.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on January 1, 2026.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Substitute House Bill:** *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: Transit plays a vital role in our communities and its important to have feedback of transit riders on the governing boards. Intercity transit has citizen representation on the board and values the important feedback it provides. Some boards have a history of silencing the public and aren't transit riders, so having transit riders on the board brings accountability.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative Joe Timmons, Prime Sponsor; Joe Kunzler; Erik Lowe, Spokane Reimagined; Clark Gilman, Former chair, Intercity Transit Authority; Anna Zivarts, Disability Rights Washington; Judy Jones.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.