
HOUSE BILL 2550

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Taylor, Entenman, Reed, Macri, Gregerson, Parshley, Pollet, Leavitt, Fosse, Scott, and Bergquist

Read first time 01/16/26. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to adding certain students at certain community
2 and technical colleges to the passengers that must be allowed to ride
3 transit for free under the transit support grant program; and
4 amending RCW 47.66.140.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.66.140 and 2023 c 431 s 12 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall establish a transit support grant
9 program for the purpose of providing financial support to transit
10 agencies for operating and capital expenses only. Public transit
11 agencies must maintain or increase their local sales tax authority on
12 or after January 1, 2022, and may not delay or suspend the collection
13 of voter-approved sales taxes that were approved on or before January
14 1, 2022, in order to qualify for the grants.

15 (a) Grants for transit agencies must be prorated based on the
16 amount expended for operations in the most recently published report
17 of "Summary of Public Transportation" published by the department.

18 (b) No transit agency may receive more than 35 percent of these
19 distributions.

20 (c) Fuel type may not be a factor in the grant selection process.

1 (2) To be eligible to receive a grant, the transit agency must
2 have adopted, at a minimum, a zero-fare policy that allows passengers
3 18 years of age and younger and students enrolled in a degree-seeking
4 or certificate-seeking program at a community or technical college as
5 defined in RCW 28B.50.030, to ride free of charge on all modes
6 provided by the agency. Transit agencies must submit documentation of
7 a zero-fare policy for 18 years of age and under by October 1, 2022,
8 to be eligible for the 2023-2025 biennium. Transit agencies that
9 submit such fare policy documentation following the October 1, 2022,
10 deadline shall become eligible for the next biennial distribution. To
11 the extent practicable, transit agencies shall align implementation
12 of youth and qualifying community or technical college students zero-
13 fare policies with equity and environmental justice principles
14 consistent with recommendations from the environmental justice
15 council, and ensure low-barrier accessibility of the program to all
16 youth and qualifying community or technical college students.

17 (3) The department shall, for the purposes of the "Summary of
18 Public Transportation" report, require grantees to report the number
19 of trips that were taken under this program.

20 (4) For the purposes of this section, "transit agency" or
21 "agency" means a city transit system under RCW 35.58.2721 or chapter
22 35.95A RCW, a county public transportation authority under chapter
23 36.57 RCW, a metropolitan municipal corporation transit system under
24 chapter 36.56 RCW, a public transportation benefit area under chapter
25 36.57A RCW, an unincorporated transportation benefit area under RCW
26 36.57.100, or any special purpose district formed to operate a public
27 transportation system.

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