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**HOUSE BILL 2727**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Taylor, Entenman, Parshley, Lekanoff, Gregerson, Ryu, Ortiz-Self, Zahn, Morgan, Reed, Thomas, Scott, Pollet, Obras, and Fosse

Read first time 02/04/26. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the educational transit access grant  
2 program to reduce the cost of public transportation for community and  
3 technical college students; adding a new section to chapter 47.66  
4 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature believes that reducing the  
7 cost of transportation for community and technical college students  
8 is essential to their educational success. It is the intent of the  
9 legislature to assist public transit agencies to develop partnerships  
10 with local community and technical colleges defined in RCW  
11 28B.50.030, in order to establish pilot programs to assist in  
12 lowering this cost of transportation.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.66  
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) The department shall establish an educational transit access  
16 grant program to provide funds to public transit agencies for pilot  
17 programs with local community or technical colleges, as defined in  
18 RCW 28B.50.030. The pilot programs must provide free or reduced  
19 transit fares for, at minimum, students enrolled in a degree-seeking  
20 or certificate-seeking program at these institutions.

1 (2) To be eligible to receive a grant, the transit agency must  
2 submit a written proposal to the department that provides, at  
3 minimum:

4 (a) The pilot program's goals and objectives, with measurable  
5 metrics;

6 (b) A description of how the pilot program will lower the cost of  
7 public transit for students;

8 (c) A written commitment to participate in the pilot program from  
9 the partnering community or technical college; and

10 (d) A preliminary plan, in collaboration with the partnering  
11 community or technical college, detailing how the program will be  
12 sustained, once the pilot program is complete.

13 (3) The department shall conduct a call for proposals no later  
14 than 60 days after the effective date of this section.

15 (4) The department shall submit a report, in partnership with the  
16 relevant transit agency, to the transportation committees of the  
17 legislature, within six months of the completion of a pilot project  
18 funded under this section, detailing the outcomes of the particular  
19 pilot project, including methods by which future pilot projects could  
20 be improved.

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

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2026.

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