
SENATE BILL 6253

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Krishnadasan, Conway, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Lias, Lovelett, Nobles, Saldaña, Stanford, Valdez, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/21/26. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to public transportation benefit area governing
2 bodies; amending RCW 36.57A.050; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature believes that governing
5 bodies of public transportation benefit areas should reflect the
6 communities that they serve. The legislature finds that these
7 governing bodies have included a nonvoting labor representative since
8 2010, and that these representatives have made valuable contributions
9 to the governing bodies and have effectively functioned as full
10 governing body members. Therefore, in order to recognize the value of
11 the labor representative's input and to ensure that public
12 transportation benefit areas work for and represent the communities
13 they serve, it is the intent of the legislature to make the labor
14 representative on public transportation benefit area governing bodies
15 a voting member.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.57A.050 and 2025 c 230 s 1 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1)(a) Within 60 days of the establishment of the boundaries of
19 the public transportation benefit area the members of the county
20 legislative authority and the elected representative of each city

1 within the area shall provide for the selection of the governing body
2 of such area, the public transportation benefit area authority(~~(7~~
3 ~~which shall consist of elected officials)~~). The governing body shall
4 consist of elected officials and a member from a labor organization.
5 The elected officials shall be selected by and serving at the
6 pleasure of the governing bodies of component cities within the area
7 and the county legislative authority of each county within the area.
8 Two other transit-using members may be appointed to the governing
9 body of such area, pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section.

10 (b) The elected official members of the governing body of the
11 public transportation benefit area, if the population of the county
12 in which the public transportation benefit area is located is more
13 than 400,000 and the county does not also contain a city with a
14 population of 75,000 or more operating a transit system pursuant to
15 chapter 35.95 RCW, must be selected to assure proportional
16 representation, based on population, of each of the component cities
17 located within the public transportation benefit area and the
18 unincorporated areas of the county located within the public
19 transportation benefit area, to the extent possible within the
20 restrictions placed on the size of the governing body of a public
21 transportation benefit area. If necessary to assure such proportional
22 representation, multiple cities may be represented by a single
23 elected official from one of the cities. A majority of the governing
24 board may not be selected to represent a single component city.

25 (c) If at the time a public transportation benefit area authority
26 assumes the public transportation functions previously provided under
27 the interlocal cooperation act (chapter 39.34 RCW) there are citizen
28 positions on the governing board of the transit system, those
29 positions may be retained as positions on the governing board of the
30 public transportation benefit area authority.

31 (2) Within such 60-day period, any city may by resolution of its
32 legislative body withdraw from participation in the public
33 transportation benefit area. The county legislative authority and
34 each city remaining in the public transportation benefit area may
35 disapprove and prevent the establishment of any governing body of a
36 public transportation benefit area if the composition thereof does
37 not meet its approval.

38 (3)(a) In no case shall the governing body of a single county
39 public transportation benefit area be greater than (~~(11)~~) 12 voting
40 members and in the case of a multicounty area, (~~(17)~~) 18 voting

1 members. Those cities within the public transportation benefit area
2 and excluded from direct membership on the authority are hereby
3 authorized to designate a member of the authority who shall be
4 entitled to represent the interests of such city which is excluded
5 from direct membership on the authority. The legislative body of such
6 city shall notify the authority as to the determination of its
7 authorized representative on the authority.

8 (b) (i) In addition to the maximum of nine elected official voting
9 members of the governing body of a single county public
10 transportation benefit area or 15 elected official voting members of
11 the governing body, in the case of a multicounty area, there may be
12 two transit-using voting members appointed to each governing body by
13 the elected official voting members. Transit-using voting members may
14 not be employees of the transit agency operating under the public
15 transportation benefit area authority.

16 (ii) One transit-using voting member must primarily rely on
17 public transportation systems for transportation.

18 (iii) One transit-using voting member must represent a community-
19 based organization and at least occasionally use public
20 transportation systems for transportation. If no such representative
21 in the public transportation benefit area's service area is available
22 to serve, the governing body must appoint a second transit-using
23 voting member who meets the requirements of (b)(ii) of this
24 subsection.

25 (iv) If transit-using voting members are appointed to a governing
26 body, meetings of the governing body must occur at a time and a place
27 that are reasonably accessible by transit, in order to facilitate the
28 participation of the transit-using voting members.

29 (v) Transit-using voting members must be provided comprehensive
30 training regarding the open public meetings act established in
31 chapter 42.30 RCW, the public records act established in chapter
32 42.56 RCW, and chapter 42.23 RCW regarding ethics for municipal
33 officers, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the member's
34 appointment.

35 (vi) This subsection (3)(b) does not apply to any public
36 transportation benefit area authority where there are retained
37 citizen positions on the governing body, pursuant to subsection
38 (1)(c) of this section.

39 (c) (~~There is one nonvoting~~) The remaining member of the public
40 transportation benefit area authority (~~(. The nonvoting member is)~~)

1 shall be recommended by the labor organization representing the
2 public transportation employees within the local public
3 transportation system. If the public transportation employees are
4 represented by more than one labor organization, all such labor
5 organizations shall select the (~~nonvoting~~) member by majority vote.
6 The (~~nonvoting~~) member shall comply with all governing bylaws and
7 policies of the authority. The chair or cochairs of the authority
8 shall exclude the (~~nonvoting~~) member from attending any executive
9 session held for the purpose of discussing negotiations with labor
10 organizations, issues between the employer and employees,
11 arbitration, and chief executive officer reviews. (~~The chair or~~
12 ~~cochairs may exclude the nonvoting member from attending any other~~
13 ~~executive session.~~) The requirement that a (~~nonvoting member~~)
14 representative from a labor organization be appointed to the
15 governing body of a public transportation benefit area authority does
16 not apply to an authority that has no employees represented by a
17 labor union.

18 (4) (a) Each member of the authority is eligible to be reimbursed
19 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060
20 and to receive compensation, as set by the authority, in an amount
21 not to exceed \$44 for each day during which the member attends
22 official meetings of the authority or performs prescribed duties
23 approved by the chair of the authority. Except that the authority
24 may, by resolution, increase the payment of per diem compensation to
25 each member from \$44 up to \$90 per day or portion of a day for actual
26 attendance at board meetings or for performance of other official
27 services or duties on behalf of the authority. In no event may a
28 member be compensated in any year for more than 75 days, except the
29 chair who may be paid compensation for not more than 100 days:
30 PROVIDED, That compensation shall not be paid to an elected official
31 or employee of federal, state, or local government who is receiving
32 regular full-time compensation from such government for attending
33 meetings and performing prescribed duties of the authority.

34 (b) The dollar thresholds established in this section must be
35 adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management every
36 five years, beginning January 1, 2024, based upon changes in the
37 consumer price index during that time period. "Consumer price index"
38 means, for any calendar year, that year's annual average consumer
39 price index, for Washington state, for wage earners and clerical
40 workers, all items, compiled by the bureau of labor and statistics,

1 United States department of labor. If the bureau of labor and
2 statistics develops more than one consumer price index for areas
3 within the state, the index covering the greatest number of people,
4 covering areas exclusively within the boundaries of the state, and
5 including all items shall be used for the adjustments for inflation
6 in this section. The office of financial management must calculate
7 the new dollar threshold and transmit it to the office of the code
8 reviser for publication in the Washington State Register at least one
9 month before the new dollar threshold is to take effect.

10 (c) A person holding office as commissioner for two or more
11 special purpose districts shall receive only that per diem
12 compensation authorized for one of his or her commissioner positions
13 as compensation for attending an official meeting or conducting
14 official services or duties while representing more than one of his
15 or her districts. However, such commissioner may receive additional
16 per diem compensation if approved by resolution of all boards of the
17 affected commissions.

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