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SENATE BILL 6018

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Strannigan, McCaslin, Quigley, Moyer, Hochstatter, Hargrove, Morton, Deccio, Palmer, Johnson, Oke, Smith, Swecker, Prentice, Finkbeiner, West and A. Anderson

Read first time 02/23/95. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to regional transit authorities; and amending RCW  
2 81.112.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 81.112.030 and 1994 c 44 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Two or more contiguous counties each having a population of four  
7 hundred thousand persons or more may establish a regional transit  
8 authority to develop and operate a high-capacity transportation system  
9 as defined in chapter 81.104 RCW.

10 The authority shall be formed in the following manner:

11 (1) The joint regional policy committee created pursuant to RCW  
12 81.104.040 shall adopt a system and financing plan, including the  
13 definition of the service area. This action shall be completed by  
14 September 1, 1992, contingent upon satisfactory completion of the  
15 planning process defined in RCW 81.104.100. The final system plan  
16 shall be adopted no later than June 30, 1993. In addition to the  
17 requirements of RCW 81.104.100, the plan for the proposed system shall  
18 provide explicitly for a minimum portion of new tax revenues to be  
19 allocated to local transit agencies for interim express services. Upon

1 adoption the joint regional policy committee shall immediately transmit  
2 the plan to the county legislative authorities within the adopted  
3 service area.

4 (2) The legislative authorities of the counties within the service  
5 area shall decide by resolution whether to participate in the  
6 authority. This action shall be completed within forty-five days  
7 following receipt of the adopted plan or by August 13, 1993, whichever  
8 comes first.

9 (3) Each county that chooses to participate in the authority shall  
10 appoint its board members as set forth in RCW 81.112.040 and shall  
11 submit its list of members to the secretary of the Washington state  
12 department of transportation. These actions must be completed within  
13 thirty days following each county's decision to participate in the  
14 authority.

15 (4) The secretary shall call the first meeting of the authority, to  
16 be held within thirty days following receipt of the appointments. At  
17 its first meeting, the authority shall elect officers and provide for  
18 the adoption of rules and other operating procedures.

19 (5) The authority is formally constituted at its first meeting and  
20 the board shall begin taking steps toward implementation of the system  
21 and financing plan adopted by the joint regional policy committee. If  
22 the joint regional policy committee fails to adopt a plan by June 30,  
23 1993, the authority shall proceed to do so based on the work completed  
24 by that date by the joint regional policy committee. Upon formation of  
25 the authority, the joint regional policy committee shall cease to  
26 exist. The authority may make minor modifications to the plan as  
27 deemed necessary and shall at a minimum review local transit agencies'  
28 plans to ensure feeder service/high-capacity transit service  
29 integration, ensure fare integration, and ensure avoidance of parallel  
30 competitive services. The authority shall also conduct a minimum  
31 thirty-day public comment period.

32 (6) If the authority determines that major modifications to the  
33 plan are necessary before the initial ballot proposition is submitted  
34 to the voters, the authority may make those modifications with a  
35 favorable vote of two-thirds of the entire membership. Any such  
36 modification shall be subject to the review process set forth in RCW  
37 81.104.110. The modified plan shall be transmitted to the legislative  
38 authorities of the participating counties. The legislative authorities  
39 shall have forty-five days following receipt to act by motion or

1 ordinance to confirm or rescind their continued participation in the  
2 authority.

3 (7) If any county opts to not participate in the authority, but two  
4 or more contiguous counties do choose to continue to participate, the  
5 authority's board shall be revised accordingly. The authority shall,  
6 within forty-five days, redefine the system and financing plan to  
7 reflect elimination of one or more counties, and submit the redefined  
8 plan to the legislative authorities of the remaining counties for their  
9 decision as to whether to continue to participate. This action shall  
10 be completed within forty-five days following receipt of the redefined  
11 plan.

12 (8) The authority shall place on the ballot within two years of the  
13 authority's formation, a single ballot proposition to authorize the  
14 imposition of taxes to support the implementation of an appropriate  
15 phase of the plan within its service area. In addition to the system  
16 plan requirements contained in RCW 81.104.100(2)(d), the system plan  
17 approved by the authority's board before the submittal of a proposition  
18 to the voters shall contain an equity element which:

19 (a) Identifies revenues anticipated to be generated by corridor and  
20 by county within the authority's boundaries;

21 (b) Identifies the phasing of construction and operation of high-  
22 capacity system facilities, services, and benefits in each corridor.  
23 Phasing decisions should give priority to jurisdictions which have  
24 adopted transit-supportive land use plans; and

25 (c) Identifies the degree to which revenues generated within each  
26 county will benefit the residents of that county, and identifies when  
27 such benefits will accrue.

28 A simple majority of those voting within the boundaries of the  
29 authority is required for approval. If the vote is affirmative, the  
30 authority shall begin implementation of the projects identified in the  
31 proposition. However, the authority may not submit any authorizing  
32 proposition for voter-approved taxes prior to July 1, 1993; nor may the  
33 authority issue bonds or form any local improvement district prior to  
34 July 1, 1993.

35 (9) If the vote on a proposition fails, the board may redefine the  
36 proposition, make changes to the authority boundaries, and make  
37 corresponding changes to the composition of the board. If the  
38 composition of the board is changed, the participating counties shall  
39 revise the membership of the board accordingly. The board shall

1 transmit the revised or different proposition to the legislative  
2 authorities of (a) the participating counties, and (b) to all cities  
3 with a population of thirty thousand or more that are within the  
4 authority boundaries, including any revised boundaries. Those  
5 legislative authorities have forty-five days after receipt to act by  
6 motion or ordinance to confirm or rescind their continued participation  
7 in the authority and system plan. The board may then submit the  
8 revised proposition or a different proposition to the voters. No  
9 single proposition may be submitted to the voters more than twice. The  
10 authority may place additional propositions on the ballot to impose  
11 taxes to support additional phases of plan implementation.

12 If the authority is unable to achieve a positive vote on a  
13 proposition within two years from the date of the first election on a  
14 proposition, the board may, by resolution, reconstitute the authority  
15 as a single-county body. With a two-thirds vote of the entire  
16 membership of the voting members, the board may also dissolve the  
17 authority.

18 (10) If the vote on a proposition succeeds but a majority of the  
19 voters in any city with a population of thirty thousand or more have  
20 voted against the proposition, the legislative authority of the city  
21 has forty-five days after certification of the election on the  
22 proposition to confirm or rescind by motion or ordinance its continued  
23 participation in the authority and the system plan.

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