

SHB 2524 - H AMD **868**

By Representative Moscoso

ADOPTED 02/25/2016

1 On page 31, after line 32, insert the following:

2 "(6) Within current resources, the transportation planning
3 program, with assistance from the rail program and other programs as
4 needed, shall prepare a report that outlines the state's options for
5 addressing the removal of the Eastside Freight Railroad line, which
6 runs from the county of Snohomish to the city of Woodinville,
7 authorized under the rail banking provisions of federal law. This
8 report must evaluate options by which the state may facilitate the
9 preservation and maintenance of the Eastside Freight Railroad line, in
10 consideration of what is currently permitted under federal law. The
11 report must address, but is not limited to, what, if any, legal
12 authority the state has to affect projects currently underway in or
13 planned for the Eastside Freight Railroad line; whether state
14 acquisition of specific property rights on the Eastside Freight
15 Railroad line is permitted under federal law and, if so, whether it
16 could be beneficial to or would be necessary for the preservation and
17 maintenance of the Eastside Freight Railroad line; and the extent to
18 which the state may otherwise encourage the preservation of the
19 Eastside Freight Railroad line. The report must include sufficient
20 details on each option presented to support its evaluation, as well as
21 the potential benefits and estimated costs associated with options
22 presented that are permissible under federal law. The evaluation of
23 potential benefits must be conducted in the context of current state
24 rail policy, including RCW 47.76.240. The department must submit the
25 report to the transportation committees of the legislature by December
26 1, 2016."

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EFFECT: Requires the Department of Transportation's Planning Program to prepare a report, to be submitted to the transportation committees of the legislature, that evaluates state options for facilitating the preservation and maintenance of the Eastside Freight Railroad line, which runs from Snohomish County to the City of Woodinville, in the context of current state law and applicable federal rail banking regulations.

FISCAL IMPACT: No net change to appropriated levels.

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