
SENATE BILL 5427

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Gaspard, West, McMullen, Patterson, Madsen, Snyder, Vognild, Conner, Wojahn and A. Smith.

Read first time January 31, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to specialized transportation for elderly and
2 handicapped persons; adding a new chapter to Title 47 RCW; and making
3 an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that many elderly
6 and handicapped persons are unable to take advantage of the social
7 service opportunities made available for them. The legislature further
8 finds that the lack of adequate transportation to the social service
9 network is a major reason for not using state and local provided
10 services.

11 It is the intent of the legislature to provide cost-effective,
12 efficient transportation services that reduce fragmentation and
13 duplication of services in order to delay or preclude the placement of
14 individuals in institutional facilities, to improve the quality of life
15 of elderly and handicapped citizens, to provide opportunity for

1 schooling and employment training programs for the handicapped, and to
2 reinforce the coordination of transportation resources.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
4 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
5 chapter.

6 (1) "Specialized transportation services" means providing
7 transportation for elderly and handicapped persons to enhance the
8 utilization of state and local government services.

9 (2) "Coordinated specialized transportation grantee" means an
10 entity providing, or arranging for, transportation services to elderly
11 and handicapped persons in a manner that is cost-effective and
12 efficient and that reduces fragmentation and duplication of services.

13 (3) "Elderly" means a person sixty years of age or older.

14 (4) "Handicapped" means a person who, by reason of illness, injury,
15 age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent or temporary incapacity
16 or disability, or other disadvantage, is unable without special
17 facilities and services or special planning or design to use mass
18 transportation facilities as efficiently as persons who are not so
19 affected. Handicapped people include (a) ambulatory persons whose
20 capacities are hindered by sensory disabilities such as blindness or
21 deafness, mental disabilities such as mental retardation or emotional
22 illness, physical disability which still permits the person to walk
23 comfortably, or a combination of these disabilities; (b) semiambulatory
24 persons who require special aids to travel such as canes, crutches,
25 walkers, respirators, or human assistance; (c) nonambulatory persons
26 who must use wheelchairs or wheelchair-like equipment to travel; and

27 (d) Persons who, because of economic or language-related barriers,
28 require specialized services.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The secretary shall adopt rules for
2 qualifying specialized transportation services and distributing money
3 from the specialized transportation services fund under section 5 of
4 this act to the coordinated specialized transportation grantees as
5 required under section 4 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The secretary will distribute money
7 to coordinated specialized transportation grantees to arrange and
8 coordinate specialized transportation services. The secretary will
9 employ a selection process that includes a detailed grant application
10 and a showing of actual need.

11 (2) The secretary will distribute money to the counties according
12 to the following formula:

13 (a) No more than fifty percent divided equally among all counties;

14 (b) No more than twenty percent based upon the number of elderly
15 residents per county as a percentage of the state's elderly population;

16 (c) No more than twenty percent based upon the number of
17 handicapped residents per county as a percentage of the state's
18 handicapped population; and

19 (d) No more than ten percent based upon a population density factor
20 that recognizes the higher transportation costs in sparsely populated
21 counties.

22 (3) The secretary is authorized to adopt rules to implement this
23 section.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The specialized transportation services
25 fund is created in the custody of the state treasurer to be funded by
26 legislative appropriation. Expenditures from the fund may be used only
27 for operations costs of specialized transportation services for elderly
28 and handicapped persons. Only the secretary of transportation or the

1 secretary's designee may authorize expenditures from the fund. The
2 fund is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no
3 appropriation is required for expenditures.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall
5 constitute a new chapter in Title 47 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of ten million dollars, or as
7 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
8 ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the specialized
9 transportation services fund under section 5 of this act for the
10 purposes of this act.