

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESHB 2417

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to local vehicle license fees adopted to fund specific projects.

Brief Description: Authorizing local vehicle license fees adopted to fund specific projects.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Transportation Policy & Budget (originally sponsored by Representatives Pennington, Mielke, Hatfield, Doumit, Ogden, Carlson, Alexander and Hankins).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation Policy & Budget: 1/26/98, 2/9/98 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/27/98, 91-6.

Passed Legislature.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION POLICY & BUDGET

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 26 members: Representatives K. Schmidt, Chairman; Hankins, Vice Chairman; Mielke, Vice Chairman; Mitchell, Vice Chairman; Fisher, Ranking Minority Member; Cooper, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Backlund; Buck; Cairnes; Chandler; Constantine; DeBolt; Gardner; Hatfield; Johnson; McCune; Murray; O'Brien; Ogden; Radcliff; Robertson; Romero; Scott; Skinner; Wood and Zellinsky.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Sterk.

Staff: Jeff Doyle (786-7322).

Background: Counties are authorized to impose a vehicle license fee of up to \$15. The fee must be levied countywide. The fee is applied to all passenger-type vehicles, except "light" (6,000 pounds or less) pickup trucks. The revenues from this fee must be used for transportation purposes.

There is no equivalent local option license fee available for cities to levy.

Summary of Bill: Cities located in Cowlitz County may impose the local option vehicle license fee within city boundaries upon a majority vote of citizens. Residents living in the city boundary will not be charged the fee twice. (The countywide fee will not apply within the city.) The fee will expire once the transportation project has been paid for.

Both the existing county local-option vehicle license fee and the new city-imposed vehicle license fee will apply to passenger-type pickup trucks (6,000 pounds or less). This corrects a drafting error in the original law.

The local option vehicle registration fee does not apply for a vehicle's initial registration period.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The cities need the ability to tax themselves to replace funds lost in the street utility fee case before the Supreme Court.

Testimony Against: The original bill, as drafted, represents an usurpation of the authority of cities to select which transportation project will be funded with city revenues.

Testified: Representative John Pennington, prime sponsor (pro); Alan Slater, city of Kelso (pro/substitute bill); Doug Robinson, city of Kelso (pro/substitute bill); Ramona Leber, city of Longview (pro/substitute bill); Judith Frolich, Washington State Association of Counties (pro/original bill; con/substitute bill); Craig Olson, Association of Washington Cities (pro/substitute bill)); Mark Brown, cities of Vancouver/Camas/Battleground (pro/substitute bill); and Jim Boldt, Washington Auto Dealers Association (concerns).