

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 5615

As Passed Senate, March 12, 1999

Title: An act relating to obsolete transportation accounts and funds.

Brief Description: Deleting reference to obsolete transportation accounts.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Horn, Goings, Benton, Gardner, Sellar and Finkbeiner; by request of Legislative Transportation Committee).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/11/99, 3/3/99 [DPS].
Passed Senate, 3/12/99, 42-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5615 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Gardner, Vice Chair; Goings, Vice Chair; Benton, Costa, Eide, Finkbeiner, Heavey, Horn, Jacobsen, Johnson, Morton, Oke, Patterson, Prentice, Sellar, Sheahan, T. Sheldon, Shin and Swecker.

Staff: Brad Lovaas (786-7307)

Background: The Legislative Transportation Committee (LTC) has been assessing and moving towards implementation of performance based budgeting since 1995. During the 1998 interim, the LTC Fiscal Working Group had the primary responsibility for overseeing LTC efforts with respect to performance based budgeting implementation. One of the key tenets of government performance based budgeting is flexibility for executive and legislative decision makers and department managers.

Dedicated accounts have many positive and negative attributes associated with their existence. For example, on the positive side they usually offer a dedicated stream of revenue that can only be used for a specific purpose. Conversely, on the negative side, this binds decision makers in both the executive and legislative branches as to their ability to make investment decisions using all available resources at their disposal.

During the 1998 session, legislation was introduced as the recommendation of the LTC Budget Working Group that eliminated and consolidated various transportation accounts following review during the 1997 interim. The 1998 interim LTC Fiscal Working Group continued the review of the over 40 transportation-related funds and accounts for possible elimination or consolidation. The funds and accounts from the 1998 legislation are included and expanded upon in this LTC request legislation.

Summary of Bill: The transfer relief account, the gasohol exemption holding account, the highway construction stabilization account, and the economic development account are eliminated (repealed).

The transportation capital facilities account is eliminated (repealed) and the activities are transferred to the motor vehicle fund.

The marine operating account is eliminated (repealed) and the activities and revenue streams currently within the account are consolidated within Puget Sound ferry operations account.

The small city account and city hardship account are eliminated (repealed) and their activities and revenue streams are consolidated into the urban arterial trust account.

In addition, the central Puget Sound public transportation systems account is eliminated (repealed) and its activities and revenue stream is consolidated into the public transportation systems account. The current distribution into the public transportation systems account is simplified through the setting of a specific rate.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause; sections take effect on various dates. Please refer to the bill.

Testimony For: Helps implement performance-based budgeting. Will help in explaining the uses and purposes of remaining transportation funds and accounts.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Horn, prime sponsor; Amy Arnis, Department of Transportation; Diane Carlson, Association of Washington Cities; Dan Rude, Transportation Improvement Board.