
SENATE BILL 5274

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Goings, Horn, Haugen, Costa, Winsley, Heavey, McCaslin, Long and Prentice

Read first time 01/18/1999. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to fare payment and enforcement by regional transit
2 authorities; amending RCW 81.112.020; adding new sections to chapter
3 81.112 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this act is to facilitate
6 ease of boarding of commuter trains and light rail trains operated by
7 regional transit authorities by allowing for barrier free entry ways.
8 This act provides regional transit authorities with the power to
9 require proof of payment; to set a schedule of fines and penalties not
10 to exceed those classified as class 1 infractions under RCW 7.80.120;
11 to employ individuals to monitor fare payment or contract for such
12 services; to issue citations for fare nonpayment or related activities;
13 and to keep records regarding citations issued for the purpose of
14 tracking violations and issuing citations consistent with established
15 schedules. This act is intended to be consistent with and implemented
16 pursuant to chapter 7.80 RCW with regard to civil infractions, the
17 issuance of citations, and the maintenance of citation records.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 81.112.020 and 1992 c 101 s 2 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
4 this section apply throughout this chapter.

5 (1) "Authority" means a regional transit authority authorized under
6 this chapter.

7 (2) "Board" means the board of a regional transit authority.

8 (3) "Service area" or "area" means the area included within the
9 boundaries of a regional transit authority.

10 (4) "System" means a regional transit system authorized under this
11 chapter and under the jurisdiction of a regional transit authority.

12 (5) "Facilities" means any lands, interest in land, air rights over
13 lands, and improvements thereto including vessel terminals, and any
14 equipment, vehicles, vessels, and other components necessary to support
15 the system.

16 (6) "Proof of payment" means evidence of fare prepayment authorized
17 by a regional transit authority for the use of transit service.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) An authority is authorized to establish, by resolution, a
21 schedule of fines and penalties for civil infractions established in
22 section 4(2) of this act. Fines established by a regional transit
23 authority shall not exceed those imposed for class 1 infractions under
24 RCW 7.80.120.

25 (2)(a) A regional transit authority may designate persons to
26 monitor fare payment who are equivalent to and are authorized to
27 exercise all the powers of an enforcement officer, defined in RCW
28 7.80.040. An authority is authorized to employ personnel to either
29 monitor fare payment, or to contract for such services, or both.

30 (b) In addition to the specific powers granted to enforcement
31 officers under RCW 7.80.050 and 7.80.060, persons designated to monitor
32 fare payment also have the authority to take the following actions:

33 (i) Request proof of payment from passengers;

34 (ii) Request personal identification from a passenger who does not
35 produce proof of payment when requested;

36 (iii) Issue a citation conforming to the requirements established
37 in RCW 7.80.070; and

1 (iv) Request that a passenger leave the regional transit authority
2 train, including but not limited to commuter trains and light rail
3 trains, when the passenger has not produced proof of payment after
4 being asked to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment.

5 (3) Regional transit authorities shall keep records of citations in
6 the manner prescribed by RCW 7.80.150. All civil infractions
7 established by chapter . . ., Laws of 1999 (this act) shall be heard
8 and determined by a district court as provided in RCW 7.80.010 (1) and
9 (4).

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 81.112 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) Persons traveling on trains, including but not limited to
13 commuter trains or light rail trains, operated by an authority, shall
14 pay the fare established by the authority. Such persons shall produce
15 proof of payment when requested by a person designated to monitor fare
16 payment.

17 (2) The following constitute civil infractions punishable according
18 to the schedule of fines and penalties established by the authority
19 under section 3(1) of this act:

20 (a) Failure to pay the required fare;

21 (b) Failure to display proof of payment when requested to do so by
22 a person designated to monitor fare payment; and

23 (c) Failure to depart the train, including but not limited to
24 commuter trains and light rail trains, when requested to do so by a
25 person designated to monitor fare payment.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 81.112 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 Nothing in RCW 81.112.020 and sections 3 through 5 of this act
29 shall be deemed to prevent law enforcement authorities from prosecuting
30 for theft, trespass, or other charges by any individual who:

31 (1) Fails to pay the required fare on more than one occasion within
32 a twelve-month period;

33 (2) Fails to sign a notice of civil infraction; or

1 (3) Fails to depart the train, including but not limited to
2 commuter trains and light rail trains, when requested to do so by a
3 person designated to monitor fare payment.

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