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HOUSE BILL 1676

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Fisher, Mitchell and Poulsen; by request of The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation

Read first time 01/31/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to investing in human resources for transportation;  
2 amending RCW 47.80.030; adding a new section to chapter 49.04 RCW;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 47.01 RCW; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 47.06 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a skilled  
7 technical work force is necessary for maintaining, preserving, and  
8 improving Washington's transportation system. The Blue Ribbon  
9 Commission on Transportation found that state and local transportation  
10 agencies are showing signs of a work force that is insufficiently  
11 skilled to operate the transportation system at its highest level.  
12 This act is intended to explore methods for fostering a stronger  
13 industry in transportation planning and engineering.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 49.04 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 The apprenticeship council shall work with the department of  
17 transportation, local transportation jurisdictions, local and state  
18 joint apprenticeships, representatives of transportation labor groups,

1 and representatives of the state's universities and community and  
2 vocational colleges to establish technical apprenticeship opportunities  
3 specific to the needs of transportation. The council shall issue a  
4 report of findings and recommendations to the transportation committees  
5 of the legislature by December 1, 2001. The report must include, but  
6 not be limited to, findings and recommendations regarding the  
7 establishment of transportation technical training programs within the  
8 community and vocational college system and in the state universities.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW  
10 to read as follows:

11 The department of transportation shall work with local  
12 transportation jurisdictions and representatives of transportation  
13 labor groups to establish a human resources skills bank of  
14 transportation professionals. The skills bank must be designed to  
15 allow all transportation authorities to draw from it when needed. The  
16 department shall issue a report of findings and recommendations to the  
17 transportation committees of the legislature by December 1, 2001. The  
18 report must include, but not be limited to, identification of any  
19 statutory or administrative rule changes necessary to create the skills  
20 bank and allow it to function in the manner described.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 47.06 RCW  
22 to read as follows:

23 The state-interest component of the statewide multimodal  
24 transportation plan must include a plan for enhancing the skills of the  
25 existing technical transportation work force.

26 **Sec. 5.** RCW 47.80.030 and 1998 c 171 s 9 are each amended to read  
27 as follows:

28 (1) Each regional transportation planning organization shall  
29 develop in cooperation with the department of transportation, providers  
30 of public transportation and high capacity transportation, ports, and  
31 local governments within the region, adopt, and periodically update a  
32 regional transportation plan that:

33 (a) Is based on a least cost planning methodology that identifies  
34 the most cost-effective facilities, services, and programs;

35 (b) Identifies existing or planned transportation facilities,  
36 services, and programs, including but not limited to major roadways

1 including state highways and regional arterials, transit and  
2 nonmotorized services and facilities, multimodal and intermodal  
3 facilities, marine ports and airports, railroads, and noncapital  
4 programs including transportation demand management that should  
5 function as an integrated regional transportation system, giving  
6 emphasis to those facilities, services, and programs that exhibit one  
7 or more of the following characteristics:

8 (i) Crosses member county lines;

9 (ii) Is or will be used by a significant number of people who live  
10 or work outside the county in which the facility, service, or project  
11 is located;

12 (iii) Significant impacts are expected to be felt in more than one  
13 county;

14 (iv) Potentially adverse impacts of the facility, service, program,  
15 or project can be better avoided or mitigated through adherence to  
16 regional policies;

17 (v) Transportation needs addressed by a project have been  
18 identified by the regional transportation planning process and the  
19 remedy is deemed to have regional significance; and

20 (vi) Provides for system continuity;

21 (c) Establishes level of service standards for state highways and  
22 state ferry routes, with the exception of transportation facilities of  
23 statewide significance as defined in RCW 47.06.140. These regionally  
24 established level of service standards for state highways and state  
25 ferries shall be developed jointly with the department of  
26 transportation, to encourage consistency across jurisdictions. In  
27 establishing level of service standards for state highways and state  
28 ferries, consideration shall be given for the necessary balance between  
29 providing for the free interjurisdictional movement of people and goods  
30 and the needs of local commuters using state facilities;

31 (d) Includes a financial plan demonstrating how the regional  
32 transportation plan can be implemented, indicating resources from  
33 public and private sources that are reasonably expected to be made  
34 available to carry out the plan, and recommending any innovative  
35 financing techniques to finance needed facilities, services, and  
36 programs;

37 (e) Assesses regional development patterns, capital investment and  
38 other measures necessary to:

1 (i) Ensure the preservation of the existing regional transportation  
2 system, including requirements for operational improvements,  
3 resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation of existing and future  
4 major roadways, as well as operations, maintenance, modernization, and  
5 rehabilitation of existing and future transit, railroad systems and  
6 corridors, and nonmotorized facilities; and

7 (ii) Make the most efficient use of existing transportation  
8 facilities to relieve vehicular congestion and maximize the mobility of  
9 people and goods;

10 (f) Sets forth a proposed regional transportation approach,  
11 including capital investments, service improvements, programs, and  
12 transportation demand management measures to guide the development of  
13 the integrated, multimodal regional transportation system; ((and))

14 (g) Where appropriate, sets forth the relationship of high capacity  
15 transportation providers and other public transit providers with regard  
16 to responsibility for, and the coordination between, services and  
17 facilities; and

18 (h) Provides for training that enhances the skills of the existing  
19 technical transportation work force.

20 (2) The organization shall review the regional transportation plan  
21 biennially for currency and forward the adopted plan along with  
22 documentation of the biennial review to the state department of  
23 transportation.

24 (3) All transportation projects, programs, and transportation  
25 demand management measures within the region that have an impact upon  
26 regional facilities or services must be consistent with the plan and  
27 with the adopted regional growth and transportation strategies.

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