
HOUSE BILL 1683

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 duties of the department of transportation; and
2 amending RCW 47.01.260.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.01.260 and 1983 c 29 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department of transportation shall exercise all the powers
7 and perform all the duties necessary, convenient, or incidental to the
8 planning, locating, designing, constructing, improving, repairing,
9 operating, and maintaining state highways, including bridges and other
10 structures, culverts, and drainage facilities and channel changes
11 necessary for the protection of state highways, and shall examine and
12 allow or disallow bills for any work or services performed or
13 materials, equipment, or supplies furnished.

14 (2) Subject to the limitations of RCW 4.24.115, the department, in
15 the exercise of any of its powers, may include in any authorized
16 contract a provision for indemnifying the other contracting party
17 against specific loss or damages arising out of the performance of the
18 contract.

1 (3) The department is authorized to acquire property as provided by
2 law and to construct and maintain thereon any buildings or structures
3 necessary or convenient for the planning, design, construction,
4 operation, maintenance, and administration of the state highway system
5 and to acquire property and to construct and maintain any buildings,
6 structures, appurtenances, and facilities necessary or convenient to
7 the health and safety and for the accommodation of persons traveling
8 upon state highways.

9 (4) The department is authorized to engage in planning surveys and
10 may collect, compile, and analyze statistics and other data relative to
11 existing and future highways and highway needs throughout the state,
12 and shall conduct research, investigations, and testing as it deems
13 necessary to improve the methods of construction and maintenance of
14 highways and bridges.

15 (5) The department shall incorporate elements of total quality
16 management into its business practices and place an emphasis on
17 excellence in the workplace, through service, customer satisfaction,
18 and a focus on results.

19 (6) The department shall form partnerships with employer-employee
20 organizations to develop apprenticeships and training programs to
21 ensure the availability of a skilled work force to deliver projects and
22 services.

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