

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESHB 1163

As Passed House:

April 8, 2003

Title: An act relating to transportation funding and appropriations.

Brief Description: Making 2001-03 and 2003-05 transportation appropriations.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representative Murray; by request of Governor Locke).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 2/17/03, 3/28/03 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 4/8/03, 57-40.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Provides 2003-05 biennial transportation appropriations to agencies with transportation related activities.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 19 members: Representatives Murray, Chair; Rockefeller, Vice Chair; Simpson, Vice Chair; Jarrett, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Campbell, Clibborn, Cooper, Dickerson, Flannigan, Hankins, Hatfield, Hudgins, Lovick, Morris, Romero, Sullivan, Wallace, Wood and Woods.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Armstrong, Bailey, Kristiansen, Nixon and Shabro.

Staff: Gary Lebow (786-7304).

Background:

The transportation budget provides appropriations to the major transportation agencies

including: the Department of Transportation (DOT); the Washington State Patrol (WSP); the Department of Licensing (DOL); the Traffic Safety Commission; and the Local Transportation Grant Board. The budget also provides appropriations out of transportation funds to many smaller agencies with transportation functions.

Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill:

Provides appropriations for the 2003 transportation supplemental budget and the 2003-05 biennial transportation budget.

2003 Supplemental Transportation Budget.

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| Department of Transportation | \$ 5.869 Million |
| Washington State Patrol | \$ (734 Thousand) |
| Department of Licensing | \$ 801 Thousand |
| Bond Retirement and Interest Reduction | \$ (18.628 Million) |
| Total Appropriations | \$ (12.692 Million) |

2003-05 Biennial Transportation Budget.

Substitute Bill

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|--|-----------------|
| Department of Transportation | \$3.524 Billion |
| Transportation Improvement Board | \$ 201 Million |
| County Road Administration Board | \$ 79 Million |
| Washington State Patrol | \$ 253 Million |
| Department of Licensing | \$ 181 Million |
| Traffic Safety Commission | \$ 21 Million |
| Small agencies with transportation functions | \$ 15 Million |

Total Agency Appropriations \$4.274 Billion

Bond Retirement and Interest \$ 349 Million

Total Appropriations \$4.623 Billion

The substitute bill includes re-appropriations of \$742 million of which \$613 million is for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. There are new transportation investments that are associated with a new revenue proposal that includes a 4 cent a gallon gas tax increase, a 15 percent gross weight fee increase for trucks over 10,000 pounds, 0.46 of one percent vehicle transfer tax, an optional license plate retention fee and additional bond authorization. The majority of the new revenue is invested in the areas of highway safety, preservation and improvements, public transportation, ferry capital, rail and freight mobility projects.

The Transportation Improvement Board, County Road Administration Board, Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board and the Marine Employees Commission remain as separate agencies.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Testimony For: The package is very well balanced but a 3 cent gas tax is not enough, a higher gas tax is needed. Keep the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board as a separate agency.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: (In support) Representative Murray, prime sponsor; Scott Merriman, Association of Counties; Randy Ray, Puget Sound Steamship Operators Association; Jim Shipman, Washington Transit Association; Gordon Baxter, Masters, Mates and Pilots, Marine Engineers, and Inland Boatmen's Union; Lloyd Flenn, Washington Association of Rail Passengers; Paula Hammond, Department of Transportation; Jackie White, Association of Cities; Doug Levy, Cities of Everett and Kent; Stephanie Bowman, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce; Cherie Tessier, Arc of Washington; Johnathan Platt, Martinac Shipbuilding; Genesee Adkins, 1000 Friends of Washington; Bill Stauffacher, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad; and Kevin Shively, Transportation Choices Coalition.

(With concerns) Pat Jones, Washington Public Ports Association; and Mary Jo Cady, Community Transportation Association of the Northwest.