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HOUSE BILL 2923

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Ericksen, Dickerson, Sullivan, Nixon and Simpson, G.

Read first time 01/22/2004. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to authorizing magnetic levitation transportation  
2 systems; amending RCW 81.104.015 and 81.104.180; adding new sections to  
3 chapter 81.104 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 81.104.015 and 1999 c 202 s 9 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
8 this section apply throughout this chapter.

9            (1) "High-capacity transportation system" means a system of public  
10 transportation services within an urbanized region operating  
11 principally on exclusive rights of way, and the supporting services and  
12 facilities necessary to implement such a system, including interim  
13 express services and high occupancy vehicle lanes, which taken as a  
14 whole, provides a substantially higher level of passenger capacity,  
15 speed, and service frequency than traditional public transportation  
16 systems operating principally in general purpose roadways. "High-  
17 capacity transportation system" also includes magnetic levitation and  
18 personal rapid transit systems.

1 (2) "Rail fixed guideway system" means a light, heavy, or rapid  
2 rail system, monorail, inclined plane, funicular, trolley, or other  
3 fixed rail guideway component of a high-capacity transportation system  
4 that is not regulated by the Federal Railroad Administration, or its  
5 successor. "Rail fixed guideway system" does not mean elevators,  
6 moving sidewalks or stairs, and vehicles suspended from aerial cables,  
7 unless they are an integral component of a station served by a rail  
8 fixed guideway system.

9 (3) "Regional transit system" means a high-capacity transportation  
10 system under the jurisdiction of one or more transit agencies except  
11 where a regional transit authority created under chapter 81.112 RCW  
12 exists, in which case "regional transit system" means the high-capacity  
13 transportation system under the jurisdiction of a regional transit  
14 authority.

15 (4) "Transit agency" means city-owned transit systems, county  
16 transportation authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, and  
17 public transportation benefit areas.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 81.104.180 and 1992 c 101 s 29 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 Cities that operate transit systems, county transportation  
21 authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, public transportation  
22 benefit areas, magnetic levitation technology and personal rapid  
23 transit systems, and regional transit authorities are authorized to  
24 pledge revenues from the employer tax authorized by RCW 81.104.150, the  
25 special motor vehicle excise tax authorized by RCW 81.104.160, and the  
26 sales and use tax authorized by RCW 81.104.170, to retire bonds issued  
27 solely for the purpose of providing high capacity transportation  
28 service.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 81.104 RCW  
30 to read as follows:

31 It is the intent of the legislature to design and implement  
32 magnetic levitation technology transportation systems to move persons  
33 and freight faster and more efficiently than the current transportation  
34 systems. The need for reducing congestion and moving freight faster to  
35 markets and shipping terminals along with new technology has made  
36 available new innovated transportation systems. The design and

1 implementation of a new system will increase jobs, reduce congestion,  
2 and improve the economy in the state of Washington. The legislature  
3 authorizes the implementation of pilot projects for magnetic levitation  
4 technology and personal rapid transportation systems.

5 There will be eight legislative members, two from each legislative  
6 caucus, selected to approve and work with counties in the  
7 implementation of pilot projects.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 81.104 RCW  
9 to read as follows:

10 Counties authorized to implement magnetic levitation technology  
11 transportation systems are hereby granted dedicated funding sources for  
12 these systems as set forth in RCW 81.104.150, 81.104.160, and  
13 81.104.170.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 81.104 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) The legislature recognizes the benefits of public-private  
17 partnerships and authorizes counties implementing magnetic levitation  
18 technology transportation systems to utilize public-private  
19 partnerships.

20 (2) Counties implementing magnetic levitation technology  
21 transportation system pilot projects are exempt from the population  
22 requirements in RCW 81.104.030.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect July 1, 2004.

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