
HOUSE BILL 2124

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Murray, Jarrett, Simpson, Hudgins, Upthegrove, Sells, Wallace, Dickerson, B. Sullivan, Moeller, Kenney and Hasegawa

Read first time 02/18/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing state participation in public
2 transportation service and planning; amending RCW 47.01.081, 47.66.030,
3 and 47.66.040; adding new sections to chapter 47.01 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 47.66 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 the state needs
7 to reestablish itself as a leader in public transportation in the
8 state.

9 The legislature also finds that increased demands on transportation
10 resources require increased coordination among public transportation
11 service providers.

12 The legislature also finds that the efficiency of transportation
13 corridors would be enhanced by a more proactive and integrated approach
14 to public transportation service delivery and planning.

15 The legislature also finds that the state department of
16 transportation is in the unique position of being able to improve
17 connectivity between service territories of transit agencies and modes
18 of transportation.

1 The legislature also finds that the state should be a center of
2 excellence in public transportation planning and research and providing
3 technical assistance to transit agencies serving urban, suburban, and
4 rural areas.

5 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that the state
6 department of transportation be a leader in public transportation in
7 the state. The department shall play a guiding role in coordinating
8 decentralized public transportation services, increasing connectivity
9 between them, advocating for public transportation as a means to
10 increase corridor efficiency, and increasing the integration of public
11 transportation and the highway system.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.01.081 and 1984 c 48 s 1 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) Initially the department shall be organized into divisions,
15 including the division of highways, the division of public
16 transportation, the division of aeronautics, the division of marine
17 transportation, and the division of transportation planning and budget.

18 (2) The secretary may reorganize divisions in order to attain the
19 maximum possible efficiency in the operation of the department. Each
20 division shall be headed by an assistant secretary to be appointed by
21 the secretary. The secretary may also appoint a deputy secretary as
22 may be needed for the performance of the duties and functions vested in
23 the department and may also appoint up to twelve ferry system
24 management positions as defined in RCW 47.64.011. The secretary may
25 delegate to officers within the several divisions of the department
26 authority to employ personnel necessary to discharge the
27 responsibilities of the department. The secretary shall establish an
28 office of transit mobility to ensure the integration of decentralized
29 public transportation services with the state transportation system.
30 The director of the office must report directly to the secretary.

31 (3) The officers appointed under this section shall be exempt from
32 the provisions of the state civil service law and shall be paid
33 salaries to be fixed by the governor in accordance with the procedure
34 established by law for the fixing of salaries for officers exempt from
35 the operation of the state civil service law.

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

3 (1) The primary goals of the office of transit mobility shall be
4 to: (a) Connect and coordinate transit services and planning, and (b)
5 maximize opportunities to use public transportation to improve the
6 efficiency of transportation corridors.

7 (2) The duties of the office shall include, but not be limited to,
8 the following:

9 (a) Developing a statewide strategic plan that creates common goals
10 for transit agencies and reduces competing plans for cross-
11 jurisdictional service;

12 (b) Developing a park and ride lot program;

13 (c) Encouraging long-range transit planning;

14 (d) Providing public transportation expertise to improve linkages
15 between regional transportation planning organizations and transit
16 agencies;

17 (e) Strengthening policies for inclusion of transportation demand
18 management strategies in route development and corridor plan standards;
19 and

20 (f) Providing staff assistance to the regional mobility steering
21 committee established in section 4 of this act.

22 (3) In forming the office, the secretary shall use existing
23 resources to the greatest extent possible. Specifically, the office of
24 transit mobility shall take over functions as appropriate from the
25 division of public transportation and rail and the urban planning
26 office.

27 (4) The office of transit mobility shall establish measurable
28 performance objectives for evaluating the success of its initiatives
29 and progress toward accomplishing the overall goals of the office. The
30 office shall be subject to review by the transportation performance
31 audit board.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
33 to read as follows:

34 Local and regional transportation agencies shall adopt common
35 transportation goals. The office of transit mobility shall review
36 local and regional transportation plans to ensure the efficient

1 integration of multimodal and multijurisdictional transportation
2 planning.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 47.66 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The regional mobility steering committee is created. The
6 committee is composed of eleven voting members and four nonvoting,
7 legislative members.

8 (2) The eleven voting members are the secretary of transportation
9 or a designee, the director of the transportation improvement board or
10 a designee, and nine members appointed by the governor as follows:

11 (a) Two representatives of transit agencies, one from an urban area
12 with a population more than two hundred thousand and one from a rural
13 area with a population less than two hundred thousand;

14 (b) One representative from port districts;

15 (c) One representative of nonmotorized transportation interests;

16 (d) One representative from a regional transportation planning
17 organization;

18 (e) Two representatives of counties, one from a county with a
19 population more than one hundred twenty-five thousand and one from a
20 county with a population less than one hundred twenty-five thousand;
21 and

22 (f) Two representatives of cities, one from a city or town with a
23 population more than two hundred thousand and one from a city or town
24 with a population less than two hundred thousand.

25 (3) The four nonvoting members are legislators as follows:

26 (a) Two members from the house of representatives, one from each of
27 the two largest caucuses, appointed by the speaker of the house of
28 representatives; and

29 (b) Two members from the senate, one from each of the two largest
30 caucuses, appointed by the president of the senate.

31 (4) Gubernatorial appointees of the committee serve two-year terms.
32 Members may not receive compensation for their service on the
33 committee, but will be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses
34 incurred in performing their duties as members as set forth in RCW
35 43.03.220.

36 (5) The secretary of transportation or a designee shall serve as
37 the chair.

1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 47.66.030 and 1996 c 49 s 3 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 ~~((1)(a))~~ The ~~((transportation improvement board))~~ regional
4 mobility steering committee is authorized and responsible for the final
5 selection of programs and projects funded from the central Puget Sound
6 public transportation account; public transportation systems account;
7 ~~((and))~~ the intermodal surface transportation and efficiency act of
8 1991, surface transportation program, statewide competitive; and
9 surface transportation program funds authorized by the federal surface
10 transportation act enacted to replace the transportation equity act for
11 the twenty-first century.

12 ~~((b))~~ The ~~((board))~~ steering committee may establish
13 subcommittees as well as technical advisory committees to carry out the
14 mandates of this chapter.

15 ~~((2) Expenses of the board, including administrative expenses for~~
16 ~~managing the program, shall be paid in accordance with RCW 47.26.140.)~~

17 **Sec. 7.** RCW 47.66.040 and 1995 c 269 s 2606 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The ~~((transportation improvement board))~~ regional mobility
20 steering committee shall select programs and projects based on a
21 competitive process consistent with the mandates governing each account
22 or source of funds. The competition shall be consistent with the
23 following criteria:

- 24 (a) Local, regional, and state transportation plans;
- 25 (b) Local transit development plans; and
- 26 (c) Local comprehensive land use plans.

27 (2) The following criteria shall be considered by the ~~((board))~~
28 steering committee in selecting programs and projects:

29 (a) Objectives of the growth management act, the high capacity
30 transportation act, the commute trip reduction act, transportation
31 demand management programs, federal and state air quality requirements,
32 and federal Americans with disabilities act and related state
33 accessibility requirements; and

34 (b) Enhancing the efficiency of regional corridors in moving people
35 among jurisdictions and modes of transportation, energy efficiency
36 issues, freight and goods movement as related to economic development,

1 regional significance, rural isolation, the leveraging of other funds
2 (~~including funds administered by this board~~), and safety and security
3 issues.

4 (3) The (~~board~~) steering committee shall determine the
5 appropriate level of local match required for each program and project
6 based on the source of funds.

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