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SENATE BILL 6553

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Benson, Jacobsen and Benton

Read first time 01/13/2006. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to department of transportation organization;  
2 amending RCW 47.01.101; and creating a new section.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.01.101 and 2005 c 319 s 7 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            The secretary shall ~~((have the authority and it shall be his or her~~  
7 ~~duty))~~:

8            (1) ~~((Tø))~~ Serve as chief executive officer of the department with  
9 full administrative authority to direct all its activities;

10            (2) ~~((Tø))~~ Organize the department as he or she may deem necessary  
11 to carry out the work and responsibilities of the department  
12 effectively;

13            (3) ~~((Tø))~~ Designate and establish such transportation district or  
14 branch offices as may be necessary or convenient, and ~~((tø))~~ appoint  
15 assistants and delegate any powers, duties, and functions to them or  
16 any officer or employee of the department as deemed necessary to  
17 administer the department efficiently. Every ten years, beginning  
18 December 1, 2006, the secretary shall present to the legislative  
19 transportation committees of the house of representatives and senate a

1 proposed reorganization of the department's regions. If appropriate,  
2 the reorganization proposal shall recommend new regional boundaries,  
3 determined geographically, accounting for projects and other workload  
4 funded in the next sixteen years. Where appropriate, projects along  
5 the same corridor shall be kept within a single region;

6 (4) ((~~Fe~~)) Direct and coordinate the programs of the various  
7 divisions of the department to assure that they achieve the greatest  
8 possible mutual benefit, produce a balanced overall effort, and  
9 eliminate unnecessary duplication of activity;

10 (5) ((~~Fe~~)) Adopt all department rules that are subject to the  
11 adoption procedures contained in the state administrative procedure  
12 act, except rules subject to adoption by the commission pursuant to  
13 statute;

14 (6) ((~~Fe~~)) Maintain and safeguard the official records of the  
15 department, including the commission's recorded resolutions and orders;

16 (7) ((~~Fe~~)) Provide, under contract or interagency agreement, full  
17 staff support to the commission to assist it in carrying out its  
18 functions, powers, and duties;

19 (8) ((~~Fe~~)) Execute and implement the biennial operating budget for  
20 the operation of the department in accordance with chapter 43.88 RCW  
21 and with legislative appropriation;

22 (9) ((~~Fe~~)) Advise the governor and the legislature with respect to  
23 matters under the jurisdiction of the department; and

24 (10) ((~~Fe~~)) Exercise all other powers and perform all other duties  
25 as are now or hereafter provided by law.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The legislature intends that this act will  
27 result in periodic reviews of the department of transportation's  
28 regional boundaries. The department should review resources and  
29 outputs (such as projects and maintenance work) within each region and  
30 determine if changes to regional boundaries would benefit the  
31 department and, therefore, the public. As growth and other economic  
32 changes occur in Washington state, it may be appropriate to change the  
33 size and/or number of departmental regions.

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