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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1694**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2007 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Flannigan, Upthegrove and Kenney)

READ FIRST TIME 2/28/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to the agency council on coordinated  
2 transportation; amending RCW 47.06B.015, 47.06B.040, 47.06B.900,  
3 47.80.023, and 47.06B.901; reenacting and amending RCW 47.06B.030;  
4 adding a new section to chapter 47.06B RCW; creating a new section; and  
5 repealing 1999 c 372 s 13.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.06B.015 and 1999 c 385 s 3 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 In order to increase efficiency, to reduce waste and duplication,  
10 to enable people to access social and health services, to provide a  
11 basic level of mobility, and to extend and improve transportation  
12 services to people with special transportation needs, the state shall  
13 (~~implement the Program for~~) create the agency council on coordinated  
14 transportation. The (~~program~~) council will improve transportation  
15 efficiency and effectiveness to maximize the use of community resources  
16 so that more people can be served within available funding levels.

17 The (~~Program for~~) agency council on coordinated transportation  
18 will facilitate a statewide approach to coordination and will support

1 the development of community-based coordinated transportation systems  
2 that (~~exhibit the following characteristics:~~

3 ~~(1) Organizations serving persons with special transportation needs  
4 share responsibility for ensuring that customers can access services.~~

5 ~~(2) There is a single entry process for customers to use to have  
6 trips arranged and scheduled, so the customer does not have to contact  
7 different locations based on which sponsoring agency or program is  
8 paying for the trip.~~

9 ~~(3) A process is in place so that when decisions are made by  
10 service organizations on facility siting or program policy  
11 implementation, the costs of client transportation and the potential  
12 effects on the client transportation costs of other agencies or  
13 programs are considered. Affected agencies are given an opportunity to  
14 influence the decision if the potential impact is negative.~~

15 ~~(4) Open local market mechanisms give all providers who meet  
16 minimum standards an opportunity to participate in the program, and, in  
17 addition, allow for cost comparisons so that purchasers can select the  
18 least expensive trip most appropriate to the customer's needs.~~

19 ~~(5) There is flexibility in using the available vehicles in a  
20 community so that the ability to transport people is not restricted by  
21 categorical claims to vehicles.~~

22 ~~(6) There is maximum sharing of operating facilities and  
23 administrative services, to avoid duplication of costly program  
24 elements.~~

25 ~~(7) Trip sponsors and service providers have agreed on a process  
26 for allocating costs and billing when they share use of vehicles.~~

27 ~~(8) Minimum standards exist for at least safety, driver training,  
28 maintenance, vehicles, and technology to eliminate barriers that may  
29 prevent sponsors from using each other's vehicles or serving each  
30 other's clients.~~

31 ~~(9) The system is user friendly. The fact that the system is  
32 supported by a multitude of programs and agencies with different  
33 eligibility, contracting, service delivery, payment, and funding  
34 structures does not negatively affect the customer's ability to access  
35 service.~~

36 ~~(10) Support is provided for research, technology improvements, and  
37 sharing of best practices from other communities, so that the system  
38 can be continually improved.~~

1       ~~(11) There are performance goals and an evaluation process that~~  
2 ~~leads to continuous system improvement))~~ identify and address barriers,  
3 focus on results, and increase advocacy for special needs  
4 transportation as directed and prioritized by the agency council on  
5 coordinated transportation.

6       **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.06B.030 and 1999 c 385 s 5 are each reenacted and  
7 amended to read as follows:

8       To assure ~~((implementation))~~ the effectiveness of the ~~((Program~~  
9 ~~for))~~ agency council on coordinated transportation, the council, in  
10 coordination with stakeholders, shall~~((+~~

11       ~~(1) Develop guidelines for local planning of coordinated~~  
12 ~~transportation in accordance with this chapter;~~

13       ~~(2) Initiate local planning processes by contacting the board of~~  
14 ~~commissioners and county councils in each county and encouraging them~~  
15 ~~to convene local planning forums for the purpose of implementing~~  
16 ~~special needs coordinated transportation programs at the community~~  
17 ~~level;~~

18       ~~(3) Work with local community forums to designate a local lead~~  
19 ~~organization that shall cooperate and coordinate with private and~~  
20 ~~nonprofit transportation brokers and providers, local public~~  
21 ~~transportation agencies, local governments, and user groups;~~

22       ~~(4) Provide a forum at the state level in which state agencies will~~  
23 ~~discuss and resolve coordination issues and program policy issues that~~  
24 ~~may impact transportation coordination and costs;~~

25       ~~(5) Provide guidelines for state agencies to use in creating~~  
26 ~~policies, rules, or procedures to encourage the participation of their~~  
27 ~~constituents in community based planning and coordination, in~~  
28 ~~accordance with this chapter;~~

29       ~~(6) Facilitate state level discussion and action on problems and~~  
30 ~~barriers identified by the local forums that can only be resolved at~~  
31 ~~either the state or federal level;~~

32       ~~(7) Develop and test models for determining the impacts of facility~~  
33 ~~siting and program policy decisions on transportation costs;~~

34       ~~(8) Develop methodologies and provide support to local and state~~  
35 ~~agencies in identifying transportation costs;~~

36       ~~(9) Develop guidelines for setting performance measures and~~  
37 ~~evaluating performance;~~

- 1       ~~(10) Develop monitoring reporting criteria and processes to assess~~  
2 ~~state and local level of participation with this chapter;~~
- 3       ~~(11) Administer and manage grant funds to develop, test, and~~  
4 ~~facilitate the implementation of coordinated systems;~~
- 5       ~~(12) Develop minimum standards for safety, driver training, and~~  
6 ~~vehicles, and provide models for processes and technology to support~~  
7 ~~coordinated service delivery systems;~~
- 8       ~~(13) Provide a clearinghouse for sharing information about~~  
9 ~~transportation coordination best practices and experiences;~~
- 10       ~~(14) Promote research and development of methods and tools to~~  
11 ~~improve the performance of transportation coordination in the state;~~
- 12       ~~(15) Provide technical assistance and support to communities;~~
- 13       ~~(16) Facilitate, monitor, provide funding as available, and give~~  
14 ~~technical support to local planning processes;~~
- 15       ~~(17) Form, convene, and give staff support to stakeholder work~~  
16 ~~groups as needed to continue work on removing barriers to coordinated~~  
17 ~~transportation;~~
- 18       ~~(18) Advocate for the coordination of transportation for people~~  
19 ~~with special transportation needs at the federal, state, and local~~  
20 ~~levels;~~
- 21       ~~(19) Recommend to the legislature changes in laws to assist~~  
22 ~~coordination of transportation services;~~
- 23       ~~(20) Petition the office of financial management to make whatever~~  
24 ~~changes are deemed necessary to identify transportation costs in all~~  
25 ~~executive agency budgets;~~
- 26       ~~(21) Report to the legislature by December 1, 2000, on council~~  
27 ~~activities including, but not limited to, the progress of community~~  
28 ~~planning processes, what demonstration projects have been undertaken,~~  
29 ~~how coordination affected service levels, and whether these efforts~~  
30 ~~produced savings that allowed expansion of services. Reports must be~~  
31 ~~made once every two years thereafter, and other times as the council~~  
32 ~~deems necessary)) focus its efforts on projects that identify and~~  
33 ~~address barriers in laws, policies, operations, and procedures; focus~~  
34 ~~on results; and increase advocacy for transportation for persons with~~  
35 ~~special needs, as adopted and prioritized in the agency council on~~  
36 ~~coordinated transportation biennial work plan. The council will, as~~  
37 ~~necessary, convene work groups at the state, regional, or local level~~

1 to implement and develop coordinated approaches to special needs  
2 transportation.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.06B.040 and 1999 c 385 s 6 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 ~~((The council may request, and may require as a condition of~~  
6 ~~receiving coordination grants, selected county governments to convene~~  
7 ~~local planning forums and invite participation of all entities,~~  
8 ~~including tribal governments, that serve or transport persons with~~  
9 ~~special transportation needs. Counties are encouraged to coordinate~~  
10 ~~and combine their forums and planning processes with other counties, as~~  
11 ~~they find it appropriate. The local community forums must:~~

12 ~~(1) Designate a lead organization to facilitate the community~~  
13 ~~planning process on an ongoing basis;~~

14 ~~(2) Identify functional boundaries for the local coordinated~~  
15 ~~transportation system;~~

16 ~~(3) Clarify roles and responsibilities of the various participants;~~

17 ~~(4) Identify community resources and needs;~~

18 ~~(5) Prepare a plan for developing a coordinated transportation~~  
19 ~~system that meets the intent of this chapter, addresses community~~  
20 ~~needs, and efficiently uses community resources to address unmet needs;~~

21 ~~(6) Implement the community coordinated transportation plan;~~

22 ~~(7) Develop performance measures consistent with council~~  
23 ~~guidelines;~~

24 ~~(8) Develop a reporting process consistent with council guidelines;~~

25 ~~(9) Raise issues and barriers to the council when resolution is~~  
26 ~~needed at either the state or federal level;~~

27 ~~(10) Develop a process for open discussion and input on local~~  
28 ~~policy and facility siting decisions that may have an impact on the~~  
29 ~~special needs transportation costs and service delivery of other~~  
30 ~~programs and agencies in the community.))~~

31 The agency council on coordinated transportation shall review and  
32 recommend certification of local plans developed with regional  
33 transportation planning organizations based on meeting federal  
34 requirements and the implementation of coordinated human service and  
35 transportation plans. Each regional transportation planning  
36 organization must submit to the council an updated plan that includes

1 the elements, consistent with federal planning requirements, identified  
2 by the council beginning on July 1, 2007, and every other year  
3 thereafter.

4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 47.06B RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The agency council on coordinated transportation shall submit a  
7 progress report on council activities to the legislature by December 1,  
8 2009, and every other year thereafter. The report must describe the  
9 council's progress in attaining the applicable goals identified in the  
10 council's biennial work plan and highlight any problems encountered in  
11 achieving these goals. The information will be reported in a form  
12 established by the council.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The joint transportation committee, with  
14 cooperation from the agency council on coordinated transportation,  
15 shall study and review the legal and programmatic changes and best  
16 practices necessary for providing effective coordination of special  
17 needs transportation services at the subregional level.

18 (2) In conducting its review, the committee shall:

19 (a) Convene local and regional special needs transportation  
20 providers, brokers, brokerages, representatives of users of transit  
21 services, representatives of nonprofit organizations that provide  
22 related transportation services, including hopelink, and  
23 representatives of other agencies and organizations, including the  
24 department of social and health services, that have related  
25 transportation responsibilities;

26 (b) Identify and examine both obstacles to and opportunities for  
27 improving effective coordination in relation to, but not limited to,  
28 the following:

29 (i) Coordinating provider billing;

30 (ii) Establishing a uniform system for reporting trips;

31 (iii) Standardizing provider agreements and reporting requirements;

32 (iv) Streamlining or centralizing access to customer services;

33 (v) Opportunities for transit and community service providers to  
34 work more closely with brokerages or clients;

35 (vi) Sharing eligibility information and trip requirements between  
36 all participating agencies;

1 (vii) Using nontraditional service providers, such as public  
2 utility districts;

3 (viii) Making facility siting decisions for state agencies with  
4 special needs transportation responsibilities;

5 (ix) Identifying federal funding and related barriers, and  
6 developing strategies to remove those barriers, including improving  
7 state management plans necessary for federal programs with  
8 transportation requirements for the purpose of identifying  
9 opportunities to improve coordination and reasonable cost sharing;

10 (x) Establishing appropriate statewide standards, developing  
11 strategies to maintain those standards in a decentralized system, and  
12 identifying the state's role in this decentralized system;

13 (c) Review and consider other relevant model coordinated special  
14 needs transportation systems throughout the nation as a source of best  
15 practices for Washington state, including the ACCESS transportation  
16 system in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and

17 (d) Conduct a comprehensive statewide survey of existing  
18 transportation resources for persons with special needs.

19 (3) Staff support shall be provided by the committee.

20 (4) The committee shall provide a final report, with specific  
21 recommendations on best practices to effectively coordinate  
22 transportation services for persons with special needs at the  
23 subregional level, to the house of representatives and senate  
24 transportation committees by December 1, 2007.

25 **Sec. 6.** RCW 47.06B.900 and 1999 c 385 s 7 are each amended to read  
26 as follows:

27 The agency council on coordinated transportation is terminated on  
28 June 30, ((2007)) 2010, as provided in RCW 47.06B.901.

29 **Sec. 7.** RCW 47.80.023 and 1998 c 171 s 8 are each amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 Each regional transportation planning organization shall have the  
32 following duties:

33 (1) Prepare and periodically update a transportation strategy for  
34 the region. The strategy shall address alternative transportation  
35 modes and transportation demand management measures in regional

1 corridors and shall recommend preferred transportation policies to  
2 implement adopted growth strategies. The strategy shall serve as a  
3 guide in preparation of the regional transportation plan.

4 (2) Prepare a regional transportation plan as set forth in RCW  
5 47.80.030 that is consistent with county-wide planning policies if such  
6 have been adopted pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, with county, city,  
7 and town comprehensive plans, and state transportation plans.

8 (3) Certify by December 31, 1996, that the transportation elements  
9 of comprehensive plans adopted by counties, cities, and towns within  
10 the region reflect the guidelines and principles developed pursuant to  
11 RCW 47.80.026, are consistent with the adopted regional transportation  
12 plan, and, where appropriate, conform with the requirements of RCW  
13 36.70A.070.

14 (4) Where appropriate, certify that county-wide planning policies  
15 adopted under RCW 36.70A.210 and the adopted regional transportation  
16 plan are consistent.

17 (5) Develop, in cooperation with the department of transportation,  
18 operators of public transportation services and local governments  
19 within the region, a six-year regional transportation improvement  
20 program which proposes regionally significant transportation projects  
21 and programs and transportation demand management measures. The  
22 regional transportation improvement program shall be based on the  
23 programs, projects, and transportation demand management measures of  
24 regional significance as identified by transit agencies, cities, and  
25 counties pursuant to RCW 35.58.2795, 35.77.010, and 36.81.121,  
26 respectively. The program shall include a priority list of projects  
27 and programs, project segments and programs, transportation demand  
28 management measures, and a specific financial plan that demonstrates  
29 how the transportation improvement program can be funded. The program  
30 shall be updated at least every two years for the ensuing six-year  
31 period.

32 (6) Designate a lead planning agency to coordinate preparation of  
33 the regional transportation plan and carry out the other  
34 responsibilities of the organization. The lead planning agency may be  
35 a regional organization, a component county, city, or town agency, or  
36 the appropriate Washington state department of transportation district  
37 office.



1 (7) Review level of service methodologies used by cities and  
2 counties planning under chapter 36.70A RCW to promote a consistent  
3 regional evaluation of transportation facilities and corridors.

4 (8) Work with cities, counties, transit agencies, the department of  
5 transportation, and others to develop level of service standards or  
6 alternative transportation performance measures.

7 (9) Submit to the agency council on coordinated transportation, as  
8 provided in chapter 47.06B RCW, beginning on July 1, 2007, and every  
9 other year thereafter, an updated plan that includes the elements  
10 identified by the council.

11 **Sec. 8.** RCW 47.06B.901 and 1999 c 385 s 8 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 The following acts or parts of acts, as now existing or hereafter  
14 amended, are each repealed, effective June 30, ((2008)) 2011:

15 (1) RCW 47.06B.010 and 1999 c 385 s 1 & 1998 c 173 s 1;

16 (2) RCW 47.06B.012 and 1999 c 385 s 2;

17 (3) RCW 47.06B.015 and 2007 c ... s 1 (section 1 of this act) &  
18 1999 c 385 s 3;

19 (4) RCW 47.06B.020 and ((~~1999 c 385 s 4 &~~)) 1998 c 173 s 2;

20 (5) RCW 47.06B.030 and 2007 c ... s 2 (section 2 of this act), 1999  
21 c 385 s 5, & 1998 c 173 s 3; ((and))

22 (6) RCW 47.06B.040 and 2007 c ... s 3 (section 3 of this act) &  
23 1999 c 385 s 6; and

24 (7) Section 4 of this act.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** 1999 c 372 s 13 is repealed.

--- END ---