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HOUSE BILL 1694

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Flannigan, Upthegrove and Kenney

Read first time 01/25/2007. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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

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

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

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

16            The ~~((Program for))~~ agency council on coordinated transportation  
17 will facilitate a statewide approach to coordination and will support  
18 the development of community-based coordinated transportation systems  
19 that ~~((exhibit the following characteristics:~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37       ~~(11) There are performance goals and an evaluation process that~~  
38 ~~leads to continuous system improvement)) identify and address barriers,~~

1 focus on results, and increase advocacy for special needs  
2 transportation as directed and prioritized by the agency council on  
3 coordinated transportation.

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

6 To assure ((~~implementation~~)) the effectiveness of the ((~~Program~~  
7 ~~for~~)) agency council on coordinated transportation, the council, in  
8 coordination with stakeholders, shall((~~:~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 ~~(9) Develop guidelines for setting performance measures and~~  
35 ~~evaluating performance;~~

36 ~~(10) Develop monitoring reporting criteria and processes to assess~~  
37 ~~state and local level of participation with this chapter;~~

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

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

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

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

12       ~~(2) Identify functional boundaries for the local coordinated~~  
13 ~~transportation system;~~

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

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

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

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

20       ~~(7) Develop performance measures consistent with council~~  
21 ~~guidelines;~~

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

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

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

29       The agency council on coordinated transportation shall facilitate  
30 and certify that the local plans developed with regional planning  
31 organizations meet federal requirements and implement coordinated human  
32 service and transportation plans. Each regional planning organization  
33 must submit to the council an updated plan that includes the elements  
34 identified by the council beginning on July 1, 2007, and every other  
35 year thereafter.

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

1 The agency council on coordinated transportation shall submit a  
2 progress report on council activities to the legislature by December 1,  
3 2009, and every other year thereafter. The report must describe the  
4 council's progress in attaining the applicable goals identified in the  
5 council's biennial work plan and highlight any problems encountered in  
6 achieving these goals. The information will be reported in a form  
7 established by the council.

8 **Sec. 5.** RCW 47.06B.900 and 1999 c 385 s 7 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 The agency council on coordinated transportation is terminated on  
11 June 30, (~~2007~~) 2017, as provided in RCW 47.06B.901.

12 **Sec. 6.** RCW 47.06B.901 and 1999 c 385 s 8 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 The following acts or parts of acts, as now existing or hereafter  
15 amended, are each repealed, effective June 30, (~~2008~~) 2018:

- 16 (1) RCW 47.06B.010 and 1999 c 385 s 1 & 1998 c 173 s 1;
- 17 (2) RCW 47.06B.012 and 1999 c 385 s 2;
- 18 (3) RCW 47.06B.015 and 2007 c ... s 1 (section 1 of this act) &  
19 1999 c 385 s 3;
- 20 (4) RCW 47.06B.020 and (~~1999 c 385 s 4 &~~) 1998 c 173 s 2;
- 21 (5) RCW 47.06B.030 and 2007 c ... s 2 (section 2 of this act), 1999  
22 c 385 s 5, & 1998 c 173 s 3; (~~and~~)
- 23 (6) RCW 47.06B.040 and 2007 c ... s 3 (section 3 of this act) &  
24 1999 c 385 s 6; and
- 25 (7) Section 4 of this act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** 1999 c 372 s 13 is repealed.

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