

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5700

PARTIAL VETO C 377 L 11 Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning certain toll facilities.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen and King).

Senate Committee on Transportation House Committee on Transportation

Background: During the 2009 regular legislative session, the Legislature authorized tolling on the State Route 520 (SR 520) corridor, authorized bonds to finance construction of corridor projects, and committed to continue imposing tolls on the corridor in amounts sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the bonds. The Washington State Department of Transportation has indicated it will be ready to start imposing tolls on the corridor in Spring of 2011, using a new electronic toll collection system, including photo tolling, authorized during the 2010 regular legislative session. As such, on January 5, 2011, the Transportation Commission adopted a schedule of toll rates applicable to the SR 520 corridor, and on January 25, 2011, adopted a schedule of photo toll rates applicable to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Included in the commission's January 5 action was the adoption of administrative fees for toll collection processes.

On November 2, 2010, Washington State voters approved Initiative Measure No. 1053 (I-1053). Among other things, I-1053 provides that "[a] fee may only be imposed or increased in any fiscal year if approved with majority legislative approval in both the house of representatives and the senate ..." I-1053 took effect December 2, 2010. Tolls are considered fees.

Summary: Consistent with the fee provisions of I-1053 and previously enacted statutory toll-related criteria, the Legislature approves the action taken by the Transportation Commission in January to (1) adopt the schedule of toll rates applicable to the SR 520 corridor, (2) adopt the schedule of photo toll charges applicable to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, and (3) adopt the assessment of administrative fees for toll collection processes. The Legislature authorizes the Transportation Commission to set and adjust toll rates on the SR 520 corridor in accordance with previously enacted statutory criteria. The Transportation Commission may exceed the SR 520 toll rates only in amounts not greater than those sufficient to meet maintenance and operating costs on the corridor and to make debt service

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

payments and other associated financing costs. The Transportation Commission must send a report to the Legislature regarding any increase or decrease to the SR 520 toll rates, and to photo toll rates on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, along with a detailed justification for the action.

Corrective language is enacted to reauthorize the issuance of toll revenue bonds applicable to the SR 520 corridor. The definition of toll revenue for bonding purposes applicable to the SR 520 corridor is broadened to include funds received for the benefit of transportation facilities in the state.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	35	10	
House	73	25	(House amended)
Senate	32	10	(Senate concurred)

Effective: May 16, 2011.

Partial Veto Summary: The intent section was vetoed.