
HOUSE BILL 1861

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Armstrong, Clibborn, Hargrove, Lias, Billig, and Schmick

Read first time 02/07/11. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the sale or lease of surplus state-owned
2 railroad properties; amending RCW 47.76.280 and 47.76.290; adding a new
3 section to chapter 46.68 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.76.280 and 1995 c 380 s 8 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The department may sell or lease property acquired under this
8 chapter to a county rail district established under chapter 36.60 RCW,
9 a county, a port district, or any other public or private entity
10 authorized to operate rail service. Any public or private entity that
11 originally donated funds to the department under this chapter shall
12 receive credit against the purchase price for the amount donated to the
13 department, less management costs, in the event such public or private
14 entity purchases the property from the department.

15 (2) If no county rail district, county, port district, or other
16 public or private entity authorized to operate rail service purchases
17 or leases the property within six years after its acquisition by the
18 department, the department may sell or lease such property in the

1 manner provided in RCW 47.76.290. Failing this, the department may
2 sell or convey all such property in the manner provided in RCW
3 47.76.300 or 47.76.320.

4 (3) Property acquired by the department under this chapter that is
5 not essential for the operation of the rail service contemplated in
6 subsections (1) and (2) of this section may be sold or leased at any
7 time following acquisition in the manner provided in RCW 47.76.290.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.76.290 and 1993 c 224 s 8 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (1) If real property acquired by the department under this chapter
11 that is essential for the operation of the rail service contemplated in
12 RCW 47.76.280 is not sold or leased to a public or private entity
13 authorized to operate rail service within six years of its acquisition
14 by the department, the department may sell or lease the property at
15 fair market value to any of the following governmental entities or
16 persons:

- 17 (a) Any other state agency;
- 18 (b) The city or county in which the property is situated;
- 19 (c) Any other municipal corporation;
- 20 (d) The former owner, heir, or successor of the property from whom
- 21 the property was acquired; or
- 22 (e) Any abutting private owner or owners.

23 (2)(a) Real property acquired by the department under this chapter
24 that is not essential for the operation of the rail service
25 contemplated in RCW 47.76.280 may be leased or sold at fair market
26 value, at any time following acquisition, to any entity or person in
27 the following priority order:

- 28 (i) The current tenant or lessee of the real property;
- 29 (ii) An abutting private owner, but only after each other abutting
30 private owner, if any, as shown in the records of the county assessor,
31 is notified in writing of the proposed sale. If more than one abutting
32 private owner requests in writing the right to purchase the real
33 property within fifteen days after receiving notice of the proposed
34 sale, the real property must be sold at public auction in the manner
35 provided in RCW 47.76.320;
- 36 (iii) Any other state agency;
- 37 (iv) The city or county in which the real property is situated;

1 (v) Any other municipal corporation; or
2 (vi) The former owner, heir, or successor of the real property from
3 whom the real property was acquired.

4 (b) If the department intends to sell or lease property under this
5 subsection to an entity or person that is not the entity or person with
6 the highest priority status under this subsection, the department must
7 give written notice to each entity or person with higher priority
8 status under this subsection. The entity with the highest priority
9 status, willing to enter into a sale or lease at fair market value,
10 must be given right of first refusal to buy or lease the property.

11 (3) Notice of intention to sell under this section shall be given
12 by publication in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the
13 area in which the property is situated not less than thirty days prior
14 to the intended date of sale.

15 ~~((+3))~~ (4) Sales to purchasers under this section may, at the
16 department's option, be for cash or by real estate contract.

17 ~~((+4))~~ (5) Conveyances made under this section shall be by deed
18 executed by the secretary of transportation and shall be duly
19 acknowledged.

20 ~~((+5))~~ (6) All moneys received under this section shall be
21 deposited in the essential rail ~~((banking account of the general fund))~~
22 assistance account created in RCW 47.76.250. Any moneys deposited
23 under this subsection from sales or leases of property that are
24 related, in any way, to the Palouse River and Coulee City rail lines
25 may be used only for the refurbishment or improvement of the Palouse
26 River and Coulee City rail lines.

27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 46.68 RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 All revenue received by the department of transportation from
30 operating leases or other business operations on the Palouse River and
31 Coulee City rail lines must be used only for the refurbishment or
32 improvement of the Palouse River and Coulee City rail lines.

33 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act is necessary for the immediate
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
2 immediately.

--- END ---