
HOUSE BILL 2370

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Billig, Jinkins, Cody, Llias, Fitzgibbon, Green, Lytton, Ryu, Moscoso, Ladenburg, Maxwell, Tharinger, Finn, Pedersen, Reykdal, Hansen, Hunt, Ormsby, Clibborn, Moeller, Kenney, and Santos

Read first time 01/12/12. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to including health in the state transportation
2 system policy goals; amending RCW 47.04.280; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that the
6 consideration of health implications in transportation policy has the
7 potential to save lives, improve health and well-being, and reduce
8 health care costs by creating transportation opportunities that prevent
9 chronic diseases, improve air quality, and reduce obesity. Wise
10 transportation investments that include a consideration of health
11 consequences will save billions of dollars in health care costs.

12 The rate of obesity in Washington has almost doubled over the last
13 fifteen years, disproportionately affecting those of lower
14 socioeconomic and educational status. Twenty-five percent of adults
15 are obese and thirty-six percent are overweight, while more than
16 twenty-five percent of our youth are overweight or obese. Washington
17 is committed to reducing the 1.33 billion dollars that the state spends
18 on the medical costs of obesity annually by increasing opportunities
19 for active transportation. For the last few generations, opportunities

1 for physical activity have declined as they have been engineered out of
2 our transportation system. Lack of physical activity is a major
3 contributor to the steady rise in rates of obesity, diabetes, heart
4 disease, stroke, and other chronic health conditions in the United
5 States.

6 Washington is committed to considering the health implications of
7 project planning and design with the goal of increasing health and
8 decreasing health care costs. Many Americans view walking, bicycling,
9 and taking public transit within their communities as unsafe because of
10 traffic and the lack of sidewalks, crosswalks, and bicycle facilities.
11 To encourage people to utilize healthy transportation options, safe
12 facilities, such as sidewalks, are a necessity. In 2008 the Washington
13 state nutrition and physical activity plan called for increasing the
14 number of active community environments by changing transportation
15 policy and funding to promote walking and bicycling.

16 Washington is committed to reducing unhealthy air quality and the
17 associated negative effects on health. Exposure to traffic emissions
18 has been linked to many adverse health effects, including premature
19 mortality, cardiac symptoms, exacerbation of asthma symptoms,
20 diminished lung function, and increased hospitalization. More than
21 fifty percent of Washington's residents suffer from at least one
22 medical condition that is made worse by air pollution.

23 Transportation planning and projects that connect low-income
24 communities to basic goods and services hold enormous potential for
25 addressing many of our state's most pressing health issues.
26 Transportation solutions that benefit public health are shared
27 solutions that can create social and economic equity and improve the
28 economy.

29 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that this act serves
30 to expand the existing goals, objectives, and responsibilities related
31 to the operation of an efficient statewide transportation system to
32 include the health of the citizens of Washington.

33 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.04.280 and 2010 c 74 s 1 are each amended to read
34 as follows:

35 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to establish policy goals
36 for the planning, operation, performance of, and investment in, the
37 state's transportation system. The policy goals established under this

1 section are deemed consistent with the benchmark categories adopted by
2 the state's blue ribbon commission on transportation on November 30,
3 2000. Public investments in transportation should support achievement
4 of these policy goals:

5 (a) Economic vitality: To promote and develop transportation
6 systems that stimulate, support, and enhance the movement of people and
7 goods to ensure a prosperous economy;

8 (b) Preservation: To maintain, preserve, and extend the life and
9 utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services;

10 (c) Safety: To provide for and improve the safety and security of
11 transportation customers and the transportation system;

12 (d) Mobility: To improve the predictable movement of goods and
13 people throughout Washington state;

14 (e) Environment: To enhance Washington's quality of life through
15 transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance
16 healthy communities, and protect the environment; (~~and~~)

17 (f) Stewardship: To continuously improve the quality,
18 effectiveness, and efficiency of the transportation system; and

19 (g) Health: To improve the health of Washington's citizens and
20 reduce health care costs by considering health implications when
21 designing, building, and maintaining Washington's transportation
22 system.

23 (2) The powers, duties, and functions of state transportation
24 agencies must be performed in a manner consistent with the policy goals
25 set forth in subsection (1) of this section.

26 (3) These policy goals are intended to be the basis for
27 establishing detailed and measurable objectives and related performance
28 measures.

29 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that the office of
30 financial management establish objectives and performance measures for
31 the department of transportation and other state agencies with
32 transportation-related responsibilities to ensure transportation system
33 performance at local, regional, and state government levels progresses
34 toward the attainment of the policy goals set forth in subsection (1)
35 of this section. The office of financial management shall submit
36 initial objectives and performance measures to the legislature for its
37 review and shall provide copies of the same to the commission during
38 the 2008 legislative session. The office of financial management shall

1 submit objectives and performance measures to the legislature for its
2 review and shall provide copies of the same to the commission during
3 each regular session of the legislature during an even-numbered year
4 thereafter.

5 (5) This section does not create a private right of action.

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