
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1233

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Jinkins, Moscoso, Fitzgibbon, Sells, Morrell, Green, Dunshee, Van De Wege, Moeller, Bergquist, Pollet, Pedersen, Lias, Maxwell, Riccelli, Morris, Farrell, Hansen, Upthegrove, Reykdal, and Fey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

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

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

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

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

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

36 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to establish policy goals
37 for the planning, operation, performance of, and investment in, the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 the 2008 legislative session. The office of financial management shall
2 submit objectives and performance measures to the legislature for its
3 review and shall provide copies of the same to the commission during
4 each regular session of the legislature during an even-numbered year
5 thereafter.

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

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