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**HOUSE BILL 1298**

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**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Clibborn and Fey; by request of Governor Inslee

AN ACT Relating to the authorization of bonds for the financing of transportation projects; and adding new sections to chapter 47.10 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  In order to provide funds necessary to finance the projects described and authorized by the legislature in the omnibus transportation appropriations act for the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, and all costs incidental to these projects, there shall be issued and sold upon the request of the department of transportation a total of three billion one hundred million dollars of general obligation bonds of the state of Washington.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Upon the request of the department of transportation, as appropriate, the state finance committee shall supervise and provide for the issuance, sale, and retirement of the bonds in this act in accordance with chapter 39.42 RCW. Bonds authorized by this act shall be sold in the manner, at time or times, in amounts, and at the price as the state finance committee shall determine. No bonds may be offered for sale without prior legislative appropriation of the net proceeds of the sale of the bonds.

The state finance committee shall consider the issuance of short- term obligations in lieu of long-term obligations for the purposes of more favorable interest rates, lower total interest costs, and increased marketability and for the purpose of retiring the bonds during the life of the project for which they were issued.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this act shall be deposited in the motor vehicle fund. The proceeds shall be available only for the purposes enumerated in section 1 of this act, for the payment of bond anticipation notes, if any, and for the payment of bond issuance costs, including the costs of underwriting.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Bonds issued under the authority of this act shall distinctly state that they are a general obligation of the state of Washington, shall pledge the full faith and credit of the state to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon, and shall contain an unconditional promise to pay such principal and interest as the same shall become due. The principal and interest on the bonds shall be first payable in the manner provided in this act from the proceeds of the state excise taxes on motor vehicle and special fuels imposed by chapter 82.38 RCW. Proceeds of these motor vehicle and special fuels taxes are hereby pledged to the payment of any bonds and the interest thereon issued under the authority of this act, and the legislature agrees to continue to impose these motor vehicle and special fuels taxes in amounts sufficient to pay, when due, the principal and interest on all bonds issued under the authority of this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Both principal and interest on the bonds issued for the purposes of this act shall be payable from the motor vehicle fund. The state finance committee may provide that a special account be created in the fund to facilitate payment of the principal and interest. The state finance committee shall, on or before June 30th of each year, certify to the state treasurer the amount required for principal and interest on the bonds in accordance with the bond proceedings. The state treasurer shall withdraw revenues from the transportation partnership account in the motor vehicle fund and deposit in the highway bond retirement fund, or a special account in the fund, such amounts, and at such times, as are required by the bond proceedings.

Any funds required for bond retirement or interest on the bonds authorized by this act shall be taken from that portion of the motor vehicle fund that results from the imposition of excise taxes on motor vehicle and special fuels and that is distributed to the transportation partnership account in the motor vehicle fund. Funds required shall never constitute a charge against any other allocations of motor vehicle fuel and special fuel tax revenues to the state, counties, cities, and towns unless the amount arising from excise taxes on motor vehicle and special fuels distributed to the transportation partnership account proves insufficient to meet the requirements for bond retirement or interest on any such bonds.

Any payments for bond retirement or interest on the bonds taken from other revenues from the motor vehicle fuel or special fuel taxes that are distributable to the state, counties, cities, and towns shall be repaid from the first revenues from the motor vehicle fuel or special fuel taxes distributed to the transportation partnership account not required for bond retirement or interest on the bonds.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Bonds issued under the authority of this act and any other general obligation bonds of the state of Washington that have been or that may be authorized and that pledge motor vehicle and special fuels excise taxes for the payment of principal and interest thereon shall be an equal charge against the revenues from such motor vehicle and special fuels excise taxes.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Sections 1 through 6 of this act are each added to chapter 47.10 RCW.

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