
Transportation Committee

HB 2124

Brief Description: Concerning members of regional transportation planning organizations representing out-of-state governments or organizations.

Sponsors: Representatives Wilson, Schmick and Johnson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Prevents a member of a regional transportation planning organization (RTPO) representing a government or organization outside Washington from serving as a voting member of the RTPO or any of its boards.

Hearing Date: 2/24/15

Staff: David Munnecke (786-7315).

Background:

Regional transportation planning organizations (RTPO) are voluntary associations of local governments within a county, or within geographically contiguous counties, created primarily to prepare regional transportation plans, to ensure local and regional coordination of transportation planning, and maintain a six-year regional transportation improvement program.

In urbanized areas, the RTPO is the same as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designated for federal transportation planning purposes, some of which are bi-state in nature. When voting on matters solely affecting Washington, an RTPO must obtain a majority vote of the Washington residents serving on the RTPO.

Currently, four MPOs include out-of-state representation: (1) Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, (2) Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, (3) Lewis Clark Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, and (4) Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments.

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Summary of Bill:

A member of an RTPO representing a government or organization outside Washington may not serve as a voting member of the RTPO or any of its boards.

The statute requiring a majority vote of the Washington residents on an RTPO board for matters solely affecting Washington is repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.