
HOUSE BILL 1924

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Hargrove, Farrell, Zeiger, Blake, Rodne, Kochmar,
and Tarleton

Read first time 02/02/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to adding elected members to regional transit
2 authority boards; amending RCW 81.112.040; 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 that the public is
6 interested in having representation on the sound transit board that
7 is directly accountable to the people. The legislature intends this
8 act to address this concern by providing direct representation
9 through elected representatives from each county in the sound transit
10 service area.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 81.112.040 and 1994 c 109 s 1 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) The regional transit authority shall be governed by a board
14 consisting of: Representatives appointed by the county executive and
15 confirmed by the council or other legislative authority of each
16 member county, and elected members. Appointed membership shall be
17 based on population from that portion of each county which lies
18 within the service area. Appointed board members shall be appointed
19 initially on the basis of one for each one hundred forty-five
20 thousand population within the county. Such appointments shall be

1 made following consultation with city and town jurisdictions within
2 the service area. Elected board members will represent each of the
3 counties within the regional transit authority service area, and each
4 such county must elect one board member only on a nonpartisan basis
5 in accordance with the general election laws. In addition, the
6 secretary of transportation or the secretary's designee shall serve
7 as a member of the board and may have voting status with approval of
8 a majority of the other members of the board. Only board members, not
9 including alternates or designees, may cast votes.

10 (a)(i) Each appointed member of the board, except the secretary
11 of transportation or the secretary's designee, shall be:

12 ~~((a))~~ (A) An elected official who serves on the legislative
13 authority of a city or as mayor of a city within the boundaries of
14 the authority;

15 ~~((b))~~ (B) On the legislative authority of the county, if fifty
16 percent of the population of the legislative official's district is
17 within the authority boundaries; or

18 ~~((c))~~ (C) A county executive from a member county within the
19 authority boundaries.

20 (ii) When making appointments, each county executive shall ensure
21 that representation on the board includes an elected city official
22 representing the largest city in each county and assures proportional
23 representation from other cities, and representation from
24 unincorporated areas of each county within the service area. At least
25 one-half of all appointees from each county shall serve on the
26 governing authority of a public transportation system.

27 (iii) Members appointed from each county shall serve staggered
28 four-year terms. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the
29 remainder of the unexpired term of the position being vacated.

30 (iv) The appointed members of the governing board shall be
31 reconstituted, with regard to the number of representatives from each
32 county, on a population basis, using the official office of financial
33 management population estimates, five years after its initial
34 formation and, at minimum, in the year following each official
35 federal census.

36 (b)(i) The regional transit authority must schedule an election
37 of the board at the next presidential election, and each subsequent
38 presidential election. The election of the board must comply with
39 Title 29A RCW.

1 (ii) One board member must be elected on a nonpartisan basis from
2 each of the counties within the regional transit authority service
3 area. Only registered voters of a county may vote for the board
4 member candidate for that county.

5 (iii) Each person elected as a board member must be elected to a
6 four-year term of office. Each board member must serve until a
7 successor is elected and qualified and assumes office.

8 (iv) In case of a vacancy of an elected member, a majority of the
9 county council in the county that the elected member represents must
10 fill the vacancy by appointment within ninety days. An appointee to
11 fill a vacancy must meet the requirements provided by law and must
12 serve until the next general election, at which time a successor must
13 be elected for the remainder of the term.

14 (c) The board membership may be reduced, maintained, or expanded
15 to reflect population changes but under no circumstances may the
16 board membership exceed twenty-five.

17 (2) Major decisions of the authority shall require a favorable
18 vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the voting members.
19 "Major decisions" include at least the following: System plan
20 adoption and amendment; system phasing decisions; annual budget
21 adoption; authorization of annexations; modification of board
22 composition; and executive director employment.

23 (3) Each member of the board is eligible to be reimbursed for
24 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 and to
25 receive compensation as provided in RCW 43.03.250.

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