
SENATE BILL 5909

State of Washington **65th Legislature** **2017 Regular Session**

By Senators Palumbo, Mullet, Hobbs, Darneille, Lias, and Keiser

Read first time 03/22/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a taxpayer accountability statement
2 to be included with regional transit authority property taxes; adding
3 a new section to chapter 36.29 RCW; creating a new section; and
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In November 2016, the voters within the
7 sound transit district approved a fifty-four billion dollar,
8 taxpayer-funded light rail, heavy rail, and bus expansion in the
9 Puget Sound region. Ensuring that taxpayers understand how funds
10 collected by sound transit are used is critical to achieving trust
11 between the agency and the public. The legislature finds that the
12 opportunities to provide transparency and understanding regarding the
13 use of taxpayer dollars should be maximized. To achieve this end, a
14 sound transit taxpayer accountability statement will be placed on the
15 property tax notifications provided by the counties, which will
16 contain easy-to-access and easy-to-understand information on sound
17 transit project status and financial audits.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.29
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The county treasurer or, in the case of a home rule county,
2 the county official designated by county charter and ordinance as the
3 official with custody over the collection of countywide tax revenues,
4 shall include a taxpayer accountability statement regarding the
5 appropriate regional transit authority when notification is sent to
6 any person regarding the amount of tax levied under RCW 81.104.175 by
7 the regional transit authority.

8 (2) For purposes of this section, a taxpayer accountability
9 statement must include the following:

10 (a) A statement indicating which of the regional transit
11 authority's projects are in scope, on time, and on budget and which
12 are not;

13 (b) A link or web site address to audited financial statements
14 for the regional transit authority;

15 (c) A link or web site address to fiscal information on the
16 regional transit authority's projects; and

17 (d) The number of a hotline to be provided by the department of
18 licensing to expedite contact with the appropriate regional transit
19 authority.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
22 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
23 effect immediately.

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