
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2461

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Riccelli, Entenman, Fitzgibbon, Lovick, Ortiz-Self, Stonier, Cody, Shewmake, Ramos, Valdez, Mead, Kloba, Thai, Robinson, Santos, Macri, Pollet, Wylie, and Doglio

Read first time 01/14/20. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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
6 there is a connection between transportation systems and individual's
7 health; transportation systems can impact health in both positive and
8 negative ways. Consideration of health implications in transportation
9 policy has the potential to support health equity by preventing
10 chronic diseases and improving traffic safety and air quality, all of
11 which can drive savings in health care costs.

12 The rate of obesity in Washington remains a concern. Almost
13 twenty-nine percent of adults and twelve percent of our tenth graders
14 are obese, with significantly higher rates in populations with lower
15 income and lower education. Access to regular physical activity has
16 been declining in our social and physical environments. People who
17 are active are more likely to maintain a healthy weight and less
18 likely to develop chronic diseases. In addition, we know that
19 exposure to unhealthy air quality is linked to premature mortality,
20 cardiac symptoms, exacerbation of asthma symptoms, diminished lung
21 function, and increased hospitalization.

1 Washington is committed to routinely consider the health
2 implications of transportation planning and community design.

3 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that this act
4 serves to expand the existing goals, objectives, and responsibilities
5 related to the operation of a statewide transportation system to
6 include the health of people living in Washington.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.04.280 and 2016 c 35 s 3 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to establish policy goals
10 for the planning, operation, performance of, and investment in, the
11 state's transportation system. The policy goals established under
12 this section are deemed consistent with the benchmark categories
13 adopted by the state's blue ribbon commission on transportation on
14 November 30, 2000. Public investments in transportation should
15 support achievement of these policy goals:

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

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

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

23 (d) Mobility: To improve the predictable movement of goods and
24 people throughout Washington state, including congestion relief and
25 improved freight mobility;

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

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

31 (g) Health: To improve the health of Washington's residents, by
32 considering health implications and encouraging active transportation
33 when designing, building, and maintaining Washington's transportation
34 system.

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

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

4 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that the office of
5 financial management, in consultation with the transportation
6 commission, establish objectives and performance measures for the
7 department and other state agencies with transportation-related
8 responsibilities to ensure transportation system performance at
9 local, regional, and state government levels progresses toward the
10 attainment of the policy goals set forth in subsection (1) of this
11 section. The office of financial management shall submit objectives
12 and performance measures to the legislature for its review and shall
13 provide copies of the same to the commission during each regular
14 session of the legislature during an even-numbered year thereafter.

15 (5) A local or regional agency engaging in transportation
16 planning may voluntarily establish objectives and performance
17 measures to demonstrate progress toward the attainment of the policy
18 goals set forth in subsection (1) of this section or any other
19 transportation policy goals established by the local or regional
20 agency. A local or regional agency engaging in transportation
21 planning is encouraged to provide local and regional objectives and
22 performance measures to be included with the objectives and
23 performance measures submitted to the legislature pursuant to
24 subsection (4) of this section.

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

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