
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4213

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Young, Walsh, Barkis, Shea, and Boehnke

Read first time 01/27/20. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** As efforts have been underway to evaluate
2 the possible future use of a road usage charge for motor vehicle
3 travel, the legislature recognizes that significant public concern
4 has emerged over the prospect of double taxation for motor vehicle
5 travel on public highways in the state. The legislature recognizes
6 that the state fuel excise tax may be supplemented or supplanted at
7 some time in the future by a road usage charge for motor vehicles,
8 and would like to provide the public with an assurance that
9 individuals will not be required to pay both over the same time
10 period by prohibiting this form of double taxation of the same
11 activity. The legislature does not intend for any individual to be
12 responsible for both at the same time. Rather, the legislature
13 believes that any transition from a state fuel excise tax to a road
14 usage charge that may be relied on in the future to provide funding
15 for the transportation system must shift to a road usage charge
16 without, for any period of time, placing a double taxation burden on
17 any member of the public. The legislature also believes that, like
18 the state fuel excise tax, any revenue from a road usage charge for
19 motor vehicle travel should be reserved exclusively for highway
20 purposes.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to
6 Article VII and Article II of the Constitution of the state of
7 Washington by adding new sections to read as follows:

8 Article VII, section No person required to pay the state
9 motor vehicle fuel excise tax may be assessed a road usage charge for
10 motor vehicle travel that occurs during the same time period for
11 which the person is required to pay the state fuel excise tax for
12 motor vehicle travel. This section does not prohibit a road usage
13 charge for motor vehicle travel and a state fuel excise tax for motor
14 vehicle travel from both being assessed at the same time provided
15 that no person is required to pay both a road usage charge and a
16 state fuel excise tax for the same period of time.

17 Article II, section Revenue collected by the state from a
18 road usage charge for motor vehicle travel is reserved exclusively
19 for highway purposes. Revenue collected by the state as a road usage
20 charge for motor vehicle travel shall be paid into the state treasury
21 and placed in a special fund to be used exclusively for highway
22 purposes, and may only be used for the highway purposes permitted
23 under Article II, section 40 of this Constitution.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment
25 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state
26 Constitution.

27 The legislature finds that the changes contained in this
28 amendment constitute a single integrated plan for limiting the manner
29 in which a road usage charge may be implemented. If this amendment is
30 held to be separate amendments, this joint resolution is void in its
31 entirety and is of no further force and effect.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
33 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four
34 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every
35 legal newspaper in the state.

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