
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1814

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Ryu, Clibborn, Johnson, Angel, Freeman, Zeiger, Bergquist, Reykdal, Lias, Moeller, Morris, Farrell, and Fey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to the agency council on coordinated
2 transportation; and adding a new chapter to Title 47 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington state
5 must review and recommend certification of local plans developed by
6 regional transportation planning organizations based on meeting federal
7 requirements. Currently, each regional transportation planning
8 organization must submit to the state an updated plan that includes
9 coordination elements, consistent with federal planning requirements.
10 In addition to federal planning requirements, transportation systems
11 for persons with special transportation needs should be operated as
12 efficiently as possible. Programs established by the legislature to
13 assist persons with special transportation needs should be accessed
14 with as much efficiency and coordination as possible.

15 The legislature further finds that the transportation needs of each
16 community are unique, and that transportation services may be improved
17 by establishing a system of statewide oversight that seeks input,
18 collaboration, and cooperation from and among all local service

1 providers, including public agencies, private organizations, and
2 community-based groups.

3 It is the intent of the legislature that public transportation
4 agencies, pupil transportation programs, private nonprofit
5 transportation providers, and other public agencies sponsoring programs
6 that require transportation services coordinate those transportation
7 services. Through coordination of transportation services, programs
8 will achieve increased efficiencies and will be able to provide more
9 rides to a greater number of persons with special transportation needs.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
11 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

12 (1) "Persons with special transportation needs" means those
13 persons, including their personal attendants, who because of physical
14 or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport
15 themselves or purchase transportation.

16 (2) "Special needs coordinated transportation" is transportation
17 for persons with special transportation needs that is developed through
18 a collaborative community process involving: Transportation providers;
19 human service programs and agencies; consumers; social, educational,
20 and health service providers; employer and business representatives;
21 employees and employee representatives; and other affected parties.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The agency council on coordinated
23 transportation is created. The purpose of the council is to advance
24 and improve accessibility to and coordination of special needs
25 transportation services statewide. The council is composed of fourteen
26 voting members, four nonvoting, legislative members, and such other
27 nonvoting members as may be determined by the council.

28 (2) The fifteen voting members are the superintendent of public
29 instruction or a designee, the secretary of social and health services
30 or a designee, the secretary of transportation or a designee, the
31 director of the health care authority or a designee, and eleven members
32 appointed by the governor as follows:

33 (a) One representative from the office of the governor;

34 (b) Three persons who are consumers of special needs transportation
35 services, which must include:

1 (i) One person designated by the executive director of the
2 governor's committee on disability issues and employment; and
3 (ii) One person who is designated by the executive director of the
4 developmental disabilities council;
5 (c) One representative from the Washington association of pupil
6 transportation;
7 (d) One representative from the Washington state transit
8 association;
9 (e) One of the following:
10 (i) A representative from the community transportation association
11 of the Northwest; or
12 (ii) A representative from the community action council
13 association;
14 (f) One person who represents regional transportation planning
15 organizations and metropolitan planning organizations;
16 (g) One representative of brokers who provide nonemergency,
17 medically necessary trips to persons with special transportation needs
18 under the medicaid program administered by the health care authority;
19 (h) One representative from the Washington state department of
20 veterans affairs; and
21 (i) One representative of the state association of counties.
22 (3) The four nonvoting members are legislators as follows:
23 (a) Two members from the house of representatives, one from each of
24 the two largest caucuses, appointed by the speaker of the house of
25 representatives, including at least one member from the house of
26 representatives transportation committee or the house of
27 representatives appropriations committee; and
28 (b) Two members from the senate, one from each of the two largest
29 caucuses, appointed by the president of the senate, including at least
30 one member from the senate transportation committee or the senate ways
31 and means committee.
32 (4) Gubernatorial appointees of the council must serve two-year
33 terms. Members may not receive compensation for their service on the
34 council, but must be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses
35 incurred in performing their duties as members as set forth in RCW
36 43.03.220.
37 (5) The council must vote on an annual basis to elect one of its
38 voting members to serve as chair. The position of chair must rotate

1 among the represented agencies, associations, and interest groups at
2 least every two years. If the position of chair is vacated for any
3 reason, the secretary of transportation or the secretary's designee
4 must serve as acting chair until the next regular meeting of the
5 council, at which time the members will elect a chair.

6 (6) The council must periodically assess its membership to ensure
7 that there exists a balanced representation of persons with special
8 transportation needs and providers of special transportation needs
9 services. Recommendations for modifying the membership of the council
10 must be included in the council's biennial report to the legislature as
11 provided in section 6 of this act.

12 (7) The department shall provide necessary staff support for the
13 council as resources allow.

14 (8) The council may receive gifts, grants, or endowments from
15 public or private sources that are made from time to time, in trust or
16 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the council and
17 spend gifts, grants, or endowments or income from the public or private
18 sources according to their terms, unless the receipt of the gifts,
19 grants, or endowments violates RCW 42.17A.560.

20 (9) The meetings of the council must be open to the public, with
21 the agenda published in advance, and minutes kept and made available to
22 the public. The public notice of the meetings must indicate that
23 accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made available
24 upon request.

25 (10) All meetings of the council must be held in locations that are
26 readily accessible to public transportation, and must be scheduled for
27 times when public transportation is available.

28 (11) The council must make an effort to include presentations by
29 and work sessions including persons with special transportation needs.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) To assure implementation of an effective
31 system of coordinated transportation that meets the needs of persons
32 with special transportation needs, the agency council on coordinated
33 transportation must adopt a biennial work plan that must, at a minimum:

34 (a) Focus on projects that identify and address barriers in laws,
35 policies, and procedures;

36 (b) Focus on results;

1 (c) Identify and advocate for transportation system improvements
2 for persons with special transportation needs; and

3 (d) Focus on projects that the members of the council are willing
4 to donate time to, with an emphasis on projects that involve:

5 (i) Coordinated human services transportation plans;

6 (ii) Cost and ride sharing;

7 (iii) Performance measures;

8 (iv) Mobility management; and

9 (v) Addressing underserved populations.

10 (2) The council must, as necessary, convene work groups at the
11 state, regional, or local level to develop and implement coordinated
12 approaches to special needs transportation.

13 (3) To improve the service experienced by persons with special
14 transportation needs, the council must develop statewide guidelines for
15 customer complaint processes so that information about policies
16 regarding the complaint processes is available consistently and
17 consumers are appropriately educated about available options. To be
18 eligible for funding on or after January 1, 2008, organizations
19 applying for state paratransit/special needs grants as described in
20 section 226(1), chapter 370, Laws of 2006 must implement a process
21 following the guidelines established by the council.

22 (4) The council must represent the needs and interests of persons
23 with special transportation needs in statewide efforts for emergency
24 and disaster preparedness planning by advising the emergency management
25 council on how to address transportation needs for high-risk
26 individuals during and after disasters.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The agency council on coordinated
28 transportation must review and recommend certification of local plans
29 developed by regional transportation planning organizations based on
30 meeting federal requirements. Each regional transportation planning
31 organization must submit to the council an updated plan that includes
32 the elements, consistent with federal planning requirements, identified
33 by the council beginning July 1, 2014, and every four years thereafter.

34 Each regional transportation planning organization must submit to
35 the council every two years a prioritized regional human service and
36 transportation project list.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Based on the biennial work plan adopted by
2 the council pursuant to section 4 of this act and the available
3 resources of the members, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
4 agency council on coordinated transportation must submit a progress
5 report to the legislature by December 1, 2015, and every other year
6 thereafter. The report must describe the council's progress in
7 achieving its objectives and in attaining the applicable goals
8 identified in the council's biennial work plan and highlight any
9 problems encountered in achieving these goals. The information will
10 also be reported in a form established by the council.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act constitute
12 a new chapter in Title 47 RCW.

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