
HOUSE BILL 2052

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Young, Fey, Caldier, Shea, Orcutt, Hayes, Scott, and Moscoso

Read first time 02/09/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to a task force to evaluate the efficacy of
2 contracting with a private enterprise to provide services and the
3 collection of tolls on the Tacoma Narrows bridge; creating new
4 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that other states
7 have leased land surrounding toll booths to concessionaires to create
8 plazas that provide food, goods, or rest areas to drivers. Such
9 private enterprises are allowed to build buildings and parking spaces
10 and make modifications so that they can sell goods and services as
11 long as they also collect the tolls for the road in an efficient
12 manner. Because the Tacoma Narrows bridge has unique financing issues
13 that may justify significant increases in tolls on the bridge in the
14 future, the legislature intends to investigate a public-private
15 partnership opportunity that is intended to minimize potential toll
16 rate increases for the Tacoma Narrows bridge.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A legislative task force on the
18 Tacoma Narrows bridge public-private partnership is established, with
19 members as provided in this subsection.

1 (b) The task force is comprised of voting members and nonvoting
2 members.

3 (i) The voting members are as follows: Two members from each of
4 the two largest caucuses of the senate as appointed by the president
5 of the senate and two members from each of the two largest caucuses
6 of the house of representatives as appointed by the speaker of the
7 house of representatives;

8 (ii) The nonvoting members are as follows: The secretary of
9 transportation or his or her designee, a member of the transportation
10 commission or its designee, the state treasurer or his or her
11 designee, and a representative from the Tacoma Narrows citizen
12 advisory committee as invited by the cochair of the task force.

13 (2) The primary sponsor of this act must convene the initial
14 meeting of the task force by August 1, 2015, and must serve as a
15 cochair. The senate cochair must be appointed by the majority leader
16 of the largest caucus in the senate.

17 (3) The task force must review and take testimony on whether it
18 would be cost-effective for the department of transportation to lease
19 the property upon which the Tacoma Narrows bridge toll booths are
20 located to the private sector to provide services and collect tolls.
21 The task force should consider under what parameters businesses would
22 be interested in engaging in such a public-private partnership and
23 identify potential barriers to such a project. The task force should
24 recommend specifications and language to be used by the department of
25 transportation to offer such an opportunity for public bid.

26 (4) The task force must hold at least one work session in the
27 community where the Tacoma Narrows bridge is located. The task force
28 must report to the transportation committees of the legislature by
29 November 15, 2015, with its findings. The report should identify
30 which recommendations are supported by all the members of the task
31 force.

32 (5) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate
33 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
34 research. The task force may contract with additional persons who
35 have specific technical expertise if such expertise is necessary to
36 carry out the duties of the task force.

37 (6) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for
38 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
39 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are

1 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
2 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

3 (7) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
4 senate and the house of representatives.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires July 1, 2016.

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