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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6822**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2008 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Murray, Pridemore, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, and Sheldon)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1       AN ACT Relating to establishing goals to reduce vehicle miles  
2 traveled; adding a new section to chapter 47.01 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Given that transportation is the source of  
6 nearly half of Washington's greenhouse gas emissions, and  
7 transportation-related emissions are expected to grow by more than  
8 twenty-five percent by 2020, the legislature finds that significant  
9 reductions in transportation-related emissions are required to meet the  
10 climate pollution reduction goals in Executive Order 07-02.

11       To reduce transportation-related emissions, the state must  
12 implement multiple strategies. New technologies and cleaner fuels are  
13 vital to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, as long as annual  
14 vehicle miles traveled continue to grow, those climate change goals  
15 will remain out of reach.

16       The state's ability to achieve significant vehicle miles traveled  
17 reductions depends, in large part, on the implementation and use of  
18 expanded regional and local multimodal design, tools, innovations, and  
19 investments. The legislature further finds that the reduction of

1 vehicle miles traveled, through a partnership at the state, regional,  
2 and local levels, is critical to reaching the state's climate pollution  
3 reduction goals.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) To support the implementation of RCW 47.04.280 and  
7 47.01.078(4), the department shall adopt broad statewide goals to  
8 reduce annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by 2050 consistent with  
9 the stated goals of Executive Order 07-02. Consistent with these  
10 goals, the department shall:

11 (a) Establish the following benchmarks using a statewide baseline  
12 of seventy-five billion vehicle miles traveled less the vehicle miles  
13 traveled attributable to vehicles licensed under RCW 46.16.070 and  
14 weighing 10,000 pounds or more, which are exempt from this section:

15 (i) Decrease the annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by  
16 eighteen percent by 2020;

17 (ii) Decrease the annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by  
18 thirty percent by 2035; and

19 (iii) Decrease the annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by  
20 fifty percent by 2050;

21 (b) By July 1, 2008, establish and convene a collaborative process  
22 to develop a set of tools and best practices to assist state, regional,  
23 and local entities in making progress towards the benchmarks  
24 established in subsection (1) of this section. The collaborative  
25 process must:

26 (i) Be jointly facilitated by the department and the department of  
27 community, trade, and economic development;

28 (ii) Provide for participation from regional transportation  
29 planning organizations, the Washington state transit association, the  
30 Puget Sound clean air agency, and at least one major private employer  
31 that participates in the commute trip reduction program;

32 (iii) Identify current strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled  
33 in the state as well as successful strategies in other jurisdictions  
34 that may be applicable in the state;

35 (iv) Identify potential new revenue options for local and regional  
36 governments to authorize to finance vehicle miles traveled reduction  
37 efforts;

1 (v) Provide for the development of measurement tools that can, with  
2 a high level of confidence, measure annual progress toward the  
3 benchmarks at the local, regional, and state levels and can adequately  
4 distinguish between common travel purposes, such as moving freight or  
5 commuting to work;

6 (vi) Establish a process for the department to periodically  
7 evaluate progress toward the vehicle miles traveled benchmarks, measure  
8 achieved and projected emissions reductions, and recommend whether the  
9 benchmarks should be adjusted to meet the state's overall goals for the  
10 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;

11 (vii) Estimate the projected reductions in greenhouse gas emissions  
12 if the benchmarks are achieved, taking into account the expected  
13 implementation of existing state and federal mandates for vehicle  
14 technology and fuels, as well as expected growth in population and  
15 vehicle travel; and

16 (viii) By December 1, 2008, provide a report to the transportation  
17 committees of the legislature on the collaborative process and  
18 resulting recommended tools and best practices to achieve the reduction  
19 in annual per capita vehicle miles traveled goals.

20 (2) Associations representing those vehicles provided an exemption  
21 under subsection (1) of this section are encouraged to continue to  
22 pursue emission reduction efforts including use of cleaner fuels, more  
23 efficient and cleaner vehicle fleets, development of electrification at  
24 idle opportunities, and off-peak delivery schedules.

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