
SENATE BILL 6822

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Murray, Pridemore, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, and Sheldon

Read first time 01/25/08. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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

11 (1) Adopt and seek to achieve the following benchmarks:

12 (a) Decrease the annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by
13 eighteen percent by 2020;

14 (b) Decrease the annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by thirty
15 percent by 2035; and

16 (c) Decrease the annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by fifty
17 percent by 2050;

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

23 (a) Be jointly facilitated by the department and the department of
24 community, trade, and economic development;

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

29 (c) Identify current strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled in
30 the state as well as successful strategies in other jurisdictions that
31 may be applicable in the state; and

32 (d) Identify potential new revenue options for local and regional
33 governments to authorize to finance vehicle miles traveled reduction
34 efforts;

35 (3) By December 1, 2008, provide a report to the transportation
36 committees of the legislature on the collaborative process and

1 resulting recommended tools and best practices to achieve the reduction
2 in annual per capita vehicle miles traveled goals.

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