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**HOUSE BILL 2227**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Young and Walsh

Prefiled 12/10/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to limiting state and local taxes, fees, and  
2 other charges relating to vehicles; amending RCW 46.17.355,  
3 46.17.323, 82.08.020, 82.44.065, 81.104.140, and 81.104.160;  
4 reenacting and amending RCW 46.17.350; adding a new section to  
5 chapter 46.17 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 82.44 RCW; adding  
6 a new section to chapter 81.112 RCW; creating new sections; repealing  
7 RCW 46.17.365, 46.68.415, 82.80.130, 82.80.140, 82.44.035, and  
8 81.104.160; providing contingent effective dates; and declaring an  
9 emergency.

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

11 **BRING BACK OUR \$30 CAR TABS POLICIES AND PURPOSES**

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Voters have repeatedly approved  
13 initiatives limiting vehicle costs, yet politicians keep ignoring the  
14 voters' repeated, unambiguous mandate by imposing higher and higher  
15 vehicle taxes and fees. It's not fair and it must stop. Without this  
16 follow-up ballot measure, vehicle costs will continue to skyrocket  
17 until vehicle charges are obscenely expensive, as they were prior to  
18 Initiative 695. This measure and each of its provisions limit state  
19 and local taxes, fees, and other charges relating to motor vehicles.  
20 This measure would limit annual motor vehicle license fees to \$30,

1 except voter-approved charges, repeal and remove authority to impose  
 2 certain vehicle taxes and charges; and base vehicle taxes on Kelley  
 3 Blue Book rather than the dishonest, inaccurate, and artificially  
 4 inflated manufacturer's suggested retail price (MRSP). Voters have  
 5 repeatedly approved initiatives limiting vehicle costs. Politicians  
 6 must learn to listen to the people.

7 **LIMITING ANNUAL MOTOR-VEHICLE-LICENSE FEES TO \$30,**  
 8 **EXCEPT VOTER-APPROVED CHARGES**

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.17  
 10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) State and local motor vehicle license fees may not exceed  
 12 \$30 per year for motor vehicles, regardless of year, value, make, or  
 13 model.

14 (2) For the purposes of this section, "state and local motor  
 15 vehicle license fees" means the general license tab fees paid  
 16 annually for licensing motor vehicles, including but not limited to  
 17 cars, sport utility vehicles, light trucks under RCW 46.17.355,  
 18 motorcycles, and motor homes, and do not include charges approved by  
 19 voters after the effective date of this section. This annual fee must  
 20 be paid and collected annually and is due at the time of initial and  
 21 renewal vehicle registration.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.17.350 and 2020 c ... s 3 (Initiative Measure No.  
 23 976) and 2019 c 44 s 4 are each reenacted and amended to read as  
 24 follows:

25 (1) Before accepting an application for a vehicle registration,  
 26 the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed  
 27 by the director shall require the applicant, unless specifically  
 28 exempt, to pay the following vehicle license fee by vehicle type:

VEHICLE TYPE	INITIAL	RENEWAL	DISTRIBUTED
	FEE	FEE	UNDER
(a) Auto stage, six seats or less	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
(b) Camper	\$ 4.90	\$ 3.50	RCW 46.68.030
(c) Commercial trailer	\$ ((34.00))	\$ ((34.00))	RCW 46.68.035
	<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>	

1	(d) For hire vehicle, six	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
2	seats or less			
3	(e) Mobile home (if	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
4	registered)			
5	(f) Moped	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
6	(g) Motor home	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
7	(h) Motorcycle	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
8	(i) Off-road vehicle	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	RCW 46.68.045
9	(j) Passenger car	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
10	(k) Private use single-axle	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	RCW 46.68.035
11	trailer			
12	(l) Snowmobile	<del>\$(50.00)</del>	<del>\$(50.00)</del>	RCW 46.68.350
13		<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>	
14	(m) Snowmobile, vintage	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	RCW 46.68.350
15	(n) Sport utility vehicle	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
16	(o) Tow truck	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
17	(p) Trailer, over 2000	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
18	pounds			
19	(q) Travel trailer	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.030
20	(r) Wheeled all-terrain	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	RCW 46.09.540
21	vehicle, on-road use			
22	(s) Wheeled all-terrain	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	RCW 46.09.510
23	vehicle, off-road use			

24 (2) The vehicle license fee required in subsection (1) of this  
25 section is in addition to the filing fee required under RCW  
26 46.17.005, and any other fee or tax required by law.

27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.17.355 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 201 are each  
28 amended to read as follows:

29 (1) (a) For vehicle registrations that are due or become due  
30 before July 1, 2016, in lieu of the vehicle license fee required  
31 under RCW 46.17.350 and before accepting an application for a vehicle  
32 registration for motor vehicles described in RCW 46.16A.455, the  
33 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by  
34 the director shall require the applicant, unless specifically exempt,  
35 to pay the following license fee by weight:

	WEIGHT	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE
		A	B
1			
2			
3	4,000 pounds	\$ 38.00	\$ 38.00
4	6,000 pounds	\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00
5	8,000 pounds	\$ 58.00	\$ 58.00
6	10,000 pounds	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
7	12,000 pounds	\$ 77.00	\$ 77.00
8	14,000 pounds	\$ 88.00	\$ 88.00
9	16,000 pounds	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
10	18,000 pounds	\$ 152.00	\$ 152.00
11	20,000 pounds	\$ 169.00	\$ 169.00
12	22,000 pounds	\$ 183.00	\$ 183.00
13	24,000 pounds	\$ 198.00	\$ 198.00
14	26,000 pounds	\$ 209.00	\$ 209.00
15	28,000 pounds	\$ 247.00	\$ 247.00
16	30,000 pounds	\$ 285.00	\$ 285.00
17	32,000 pounds	\$ 344.00	\$ 344.00
18	34,000 pounds	\$ 366.00	\$ 366.00
19	36,000 pounds	\$ 397.00	\$ 397.00
20	38,000 pounds	\$ 436.00	\$ 436.00
21	40,000 pounds	\$ 499.00	\$ 499.00
22	42,000 pounds	\$ 519.00	\$ 609.00
23	44,000 pounds	\$ 530.00	\$ 620.00
24	46,000 pounds	\$ 570.00	\$ 660.00
25	48,000 pounds	\$ 594.00	\$ 684.00
26	50,000 pounds	\$ 645.00	\$ 735.00
27	52,000 pounds	\$ 678.00	\$ 768.00
28	54,000 pounds	\$ 732.00	\$ 822.00
29	56,000 pounds	\$ 773.00	\$ 863.00
30	58,000 pounds	\$ 804.00	\$ 894.00
31	60,000 pounds	\$ 857.00	\$ 947.00
32	62,000 pounds	\$ 919.00	\$ 1,009.00
33	64,000 pounds	\$ 939.00	\$ 1,029.00

1	66,000 pounds	\$ 1,046.00	\$ 1,136.00
2	68,000 pounds	\$ 1,091.00	\$ 1,181.00
3	70,000 pounds	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 1,265.00
4	72,000 pounds	\$ 1,257.00	\$ 1,347.00
5	74,000 pounds	\$ 1,366.00	\$ 1,456.00
6	76,000 pounds	\$ 1,476.00	\$ 1,566.00
7	78,000 pounds	\$ 1,612.00	\$ 1,702.00
8	80,000 pounds	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 1,830.00
9	82,000 pounds	\$ 1,861.00	\$ 1,951.00
10	84,000 pounds	\$ 1,981.00	\$ 2,071.00
11	86,000 pounds	\$ 2,102.00	\$ 2,192.00
12	88,000 pounds	\$ 2,223.00	\$ 2,313.00
13	90,000 pounds	\$ 2,344.00	\$ 2,434.00
14	92,000 pounds	\$ 2,464.00	\$ 2,554.00
15	94,000 pounds	\$ 2,585.00	\$ 2,675.00
16	96,000 pounds	\$ 2,706.00	\$ 2,796.00
17	98,000 pounds	\$ 2,827.00	\$ 2,917.00
18	100,000 pounds	\$ 2,947.00	\$ 3,037.00
19	102,000 pounds	\$ 3,068.00	\$ 3,158.00
20	104,000 pounds	\$ 3,189.00	\$ 3,279.00
21	105,500 pounds	\$ 3,310.00	\$ 3,400.00

22 (b) For vehicle registrations that are due or become due on or  
23 after July 1, 2016, in lieu of the vehicle license fee required under  
24 RCW 46.17.350 and before accepting an application for a vehicle  
25 registration for motor vehicles described in RCW 46.16A.455, the  
26 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by  
27 the director shall require the applicant, unless specifically exempt,  
28 to pay the following license fee by gross weight:

29	WEIGHT	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE
30		A	B
31	4,000 pounds	\$ <del>((53.00))</del>	\$ <del>((53.00))</del>
32		<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
33	6,000 pounds	\$ <del>((73.00))</del>	\$ <del>((73.00))</del>
34		<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>

1	8,000 pounds	\$ <del>((93.00))</del>	\$ <del>((93.00))</del>
2		<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
3	10,000 pounds	\$ <del>((93.00))</del>	\$ <del>((93.00))</del>
4		<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
5	12,000 pounds	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00
6	14,000 pounds	\$ 88.00	\$ 88.00
7	16,000 pounds	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
8	18,000 pounds	\$ 152.00	\$ 152.00
9	20,000 pounds	\$ 169.00	\$ 169.00
10	22,000 pounds	\$ 183.00	\$ 183.00
11	24,000 pounds	\$ 198.00	\$ 198.00
12	26,000 pounds	\$ 209.00	\$ 209.00
13	28,000 pounds	\$ 247.00	\$ 247.00
14	30,000 pounds	\$ 285.00	\$ 285.00
15	32,000 pounds	\$ 344.00	\$ 344.00
16	34,000 pounds	\$ 366.00	\$ 366.00
17	36,000 pounds	\$ 397.00	\$ 397.00
18	38,000 pounds	\$ 436.00	\$ 436.00
19	40,000 pounds	\$ 499.00	\$ 499.00
20	42,000 pounds	\$ 519.00	\$ 609.00
21	44,000 pounds	\$ 530.00	\$ 620.00
22	46,000 pounds	\$ 570.00	\$ 660.00
23	48,000 pounds	\$ 594.00	\$ 684.00
24	50,000 pounds	\$ 645.00	\$ 735.00
25	52,000 pounds	\$ 678.00	\$ 768.00
26	54,000 pounds	\$ 732.00	\$ 822.00
27	56,000 pounds	\$ 773.00	\$ 863.00
28	58,000 pounds	\$ 804.00	\$ 894.00
29	60,000 pounds	\$ 857.00	\$ 947.00
30	62,000 pounds	\$ 919.00	\$ 1,009.00
31	64,000 pounds	\$ 939.00	\$ 1,029.00
32	66,000 pounds	\$ 1,046.00	\$ 1,136.00
33	68,000 pounds	\$ 1,091.00	\$ 1,181.00

1	70,000 pounds	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 1,265.00
2	72,000 pounds	\$ 1,257.00	\$ 1,347.00
3	74,000 pounds	\$ 1,366.00	\$ 1,456.00
4	76,000 pounds	\$ 1,476.00	\$ 1,566.00
5	78,000 pounds	\$ 1,612.00	\$ 1,702.00
6	80,000 pounds	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 1,830.00
7	82,000 pounds	\$ 1,861.00	\$ 1,951.00
8	84,000 pounds	\$ 1,981.00	\$ 2,071.00
9	86,000 pounds	\$ 2,102.00	\$ 2,192.00
10	88,000 pounds	\$ 2,223.00	\$ 2,313.00
11	90,000 pounds	\$ 2,344.00	\$ 2,434.00
12	92,000 pounds	\$ 2,464.00	\$ 2,554.00
13	94,000 pounds	\$ 2,585.00	\$ 2,675.00
14	96,000 pounds	\$ 2,706.00	\$ 2,796.00
15	98,000 pounds	\$ 2,827.00	\$ 2,917.00
16	100,000 pounds	\$ 2,947.00	\$ 3,037.00
17	102,000 pounds	\$ 3,068.00	\$ 3,158.00
18	104,000 pounds	\$ 3,189.00	\$ 3,279.00
19	105,500 pounds	\$ 3,310.00	\$ 3,400.00

20 (2) Schedule A applies to vehicles either used exclusively for  
21 hauling logs or that do not tow trailers. Schedule B applies to  
22 vehicles that tow trailers and are not covered under Schedule A.

23 (3) If the resultant gross weight is not listed in the table  
24 provided in subsection (1) of this section, it must be increased to  
25 the next higher weight.

26 (4) The license fees provided in subsection (1) of this section  
27 and the freight project fee provided in subsection (~~((6))~~) (7) of  
28 this section are in addition to the filing fee required under RCW  
29 46.17.005 and any other fee or tax required by law.

30 (5) The license fees provided in subsection (1) of this section  
31 for light trucks weighing 10,000 pounds or less are limited to \$30.

32 (6) The license fee based on declared gross weight as provided in  
33 subsection (1) of this section must be distributed under RCW  
34 46.68.035.

1        ~~((6))~~ (7) For vehicle registrations that are due or become due  
2 on or after July 1, 2016, in addition to the license fee based on  
3 declared gross weight as provided in subsection (1) of this section,  
4 the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed  
5 by the director must require an applicant with a vehicle with a  
6 declared gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds, unless specifically  
7 exempt, to pay a freight project fee equal to fifteen percent of the  
8 license fee provided in subsection (1) of this section, rounded to  
9 the nearest whole dollar, which must be distributed under RCW  
10 46.68.035.

11        ~~((7))~~ (8) For vehicle registrations that are due or become due  
12 on or after July 1, 2022, in addition to the license fee based on  
13 declared gross weight as provided in subsection (1) of this section,  
14 the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed  
15 by the director must require an applicant with a vehicle with a  
16 declared gross weight of less than or equal to 12,000 pounds, unless  
17 specifically exempt, to pay an additional weight fee of ten dollars,  
18 which must be distributed under RCW 46.68.035.

19        **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.17.323 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 203 are each  
20 amended to read as follows:

21        (1) Before accepting an application for an annual vehicle  
22 registration renewal for a vehicle that both (a) uses at least one  
23 method of propulsion that is capable of being reenergized by an  
24 external source of electricity and (b) is capable of traveling at  
25 least thirty miles using only battery power, the department, county  
26 auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director must  
27 require the applicant to pay a ~~((one hundred dollar fee in addition  
28 to any other fees and taxes required by law))~~ \$30 fee. The ~~((one  
29 hundred thirty dollar))~~ \$30 fee is due only at the time of annual  
30 registration renewal.

31        (2) This section only applies to a vehicle that is designed to  
32 have the capability to drive at a speed of more than thirty-five  
33 miles per hour.

34        (3) ~~((a) The fee under this section is imposed to provide funds  
35 to mitigate the impact of vehicles on state roads and highways and  
36 for the purpose of evaluating the feasibility of transitioning from a  
37 revenue collection system based on fuel taxes to a road user  
38 assessment system, and is separate and distinct from other vehicle  
39 license fees. Proceeds from the fee must be used for highway~~



1 ~~purposes, and must be deposited in the motor vehicle fund created in~~  
2 ~~RCW 46.68.070, subject to (b) of this subsection.~~

3 ~~(b))~~ If in any year the amount of proceeds from the fee  
4 collected under this section exceeds one million dollars, the excess  
5 amount over one million dollars must be deposited as follows:

6 ~~((i))~~ (a) Seventy percent to the motor vehicle fund created in  
7 RCW 46.68.070;

8 ~~((ii))~~ (b) Fifteen percent to the transportation improvement  
9 account created in RCW 47.26.084; and

10 ~~((iii))~~ (c) Fifteen percent to the rural arterial trust account  
11 created in RCW 36.79.020.

12 ~~((4) (a) In addition to the fee established in subsection (1) of~~  
13 ~~this section, before accepting an application for an annual vehicle~~  
14 ~~registration renewal for a vehicle that both (i) uses at least one~~  
15 ~~method of propulsion that is capable of being reenergized by an~~  
16 ~~external source of electricity and (ii) is capable of traveling at~~  
17 ~~least thirty miles using only battery power, the department, county~~  
18 ~~auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director must~~  
19 ~~require the applicant to pay a fifty dollar fee.~~

20 ~~(b) The fee required under (a) of this subsection must be~~  
21 ~~distributed as follows:~~

22 ~~(i) The first one million dollars raised by the fee must be~~  
23 ~~deposited into the multimodal transportation account created in RCW~~  
24 ~~47.66.070; and~~

25 ~~(ii) Any remaining amounts must be deposited into the motor~~  
26 ~~vehicle fund created in RCW 46.68.070.~~

27 ~~(5) This section applies to annual vehicle registration renewals~~  
28 ~~until the effective date of enacted legislation that imposes a~~  
29 ~~vehicle miles traveled fee or tax.))~~

30 **REPEAL AND REMOVE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE**  
31 **CERTAIN VEHICLE TAXES AND CHARGES**

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are  
33 each repealed:

34 (1) RCW 46.17.365 (Motor vehicle weight fee—Motor home vehicle  
35 weight fee) and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 202 & 2010 c 161 s 533;

36 (2) RCW 46.68.415 (Motor vehicle weight fee, motor home vehicle  
37 weight fee—Disposition) and 2010 c 161 s 813;

1 (3) RCW 82.80.130 (Passenger-only ferry service—Local option  
2 motor vehicle excise tax authorized) and 2010 c 161 s 916, 2006 c 318  
3 s 4, & 2003 c 83 s 206; and

4 (4) RCW 82.80.140 (Vehicle fee—Transportation benefit district—  
5 Exemptions) and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 310, 2010 c 161 s 917, 2007 c  
6 329 s 2, & 2005 c 336 s 16.

7 **Sec. 7.** RCW 82.08.020 and 2014 c 140 s 12 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1) There is levied and collected a tax equal to six and five-  
10 tenths percent of the selling price on each retail sale in this state  
11 of:

12 (a) Tangible personal property, unless the sale is specifically  
13 excluded from the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail sale;

14 (b) Digital goods, digital codes, and digital automated services,  
15 if the sale is included within the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail  
16 sale;

17 (c) Services, other than digital automated services, included  
18 within the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail sale;

19 (d) Extended warranties to consumers; and

20 (e) Anything else, the sale of which is included within the RCW  
21 82.04.050 definition of retail sale.

22 (2) There is levied and collected an additional tax on each  
23 retail car rental, regardless of whether the vehicle is licensed in  
24 this state, equal to five and nine-tenths percent of the selling  
25 price. The revenue collected under this subsection must be deposited  
26 in the multimodal transportation account created in RCW 47.66.070.

27 ~~(3) ((Beginning July 1, 2003, there is levied and collected an~~  
28 ~~additional tax of three-tenths of one percent of the selling price on~~  
29 ~~each retail sale of a motor vehicle in this state, other than retail~~  
30 ~~car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section. The revenue~~  
31 ~~collected under this subsection must be deposited in the multimodal~~  
32 ~~transportation account created in RCW 47.66.070.~~

33 ~~(4) For purposes of subsection (3) of this section, "motor~~  
34 ~~vehicle" has the meaning provided in RCW 46.04.320, but does not~~  
35 ~~include:~~

36 ~~(a) Farm tractors or farm vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.180~~  
37 ~~and 46.04.181, unless the farm tractor or farm vehicle is for use in~~  
38 ~~the production of marijuana;~~

39 ~~(b) Off-road vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.365;~~

1 ~~(c) Nonhighway vehicles as defined in RCW 46.09.310; and~~

2 ~~(d) Snowmobiles as defined in RCW 46.04.546.~~

3 ~~(5))~~ Beginning on December 8, 2005, 0.16 percent of the taxes  
4 collected under subsection (1) of this section must be dedicated to  
5 funding comprehensive performance audits required under RCW  
6 43.09.470. The revenue identified in this subsection must be  
7 deposited in the performance audits of government account created in  
8 RCW 43.09.475.

9 ~~((6))~~ (4) The taxes imposed under this chapter apply to  
10 successive retail sales of the same property.

11 ~~((7))~~ (5) The rates provided in this section apply to taxes  
12 imposed under chapter 82.12 RCW as provided in RCW 82.12.020.

### 13 **BASE VEHICLE TAXES USING KELLEY BLUE BOOK VALUE**

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 82.44  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) BASE VEHICLE TAXES USING KELLEY BLUE BOOK VALUE. Any motor  
17 vehicle excise tax must be calculated in an honest and accurate way  
18 so the burden on vehicle owners is not artificially inflated. For the  
19 purpose of determining a vehicle tax, a taxing district imposing a  
20 vehicle tax must set a vehicle's taxable value at the vehicle's base  
21 model Kelley Blue book value. This ensures an honest and accurate  
22 calculation of the tax and, combined with the appeal process in RCW  
23 82.44.065, ensures that vehicle owners are taxed on their vehicle's  
24 market value.

25 (2) For the purpose of determining a tax under this chapter, the  
26 value of a truck-type power or trailing unit, or motor vehicle,  
27 including a passenger vehicle, motorcycle, motor home, sport utility  
28 vehicle, or light duty truck is the base model Kelley Blue book value  
29 of the vehicle, excluding applicable federal excise taxes, state and  
30 local sales or use taxes, transportation or shipping costs, or  
31 preparatory or delivery costs.

32 **Sec. 9.** RCW 82.44.065 and 2010 c 161 s 912 each amended to read  
33 as follows:

34 If the department determines a value for a vehicle (~~equivalent~~  
35 ~~to a manufacturer's base suggested retail price or the value of a~~  
36 ~~truck or trailer under RCW 82.44.035)) under section 8 of this act,  
37 any person who pays a state or locally imposed tax for that vehicle~~

1 may appeal the valuation to the department under chapter 34.05 RCW.  
2 If the taxpayer is successful on appeal, the department shall refund  
3 the excess tax in the manner provided in RCW 82.44.120. Using Kelley  
4 Blue Book value ensures an honest and accurate calculation.

5 **Sec. 10.** RCW 81.104.140 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 318 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) Agencies authorized to provide high capacity transportation  
8 service, including transit agencies and regional transit authorities,  
9 and regional transportation investment districts acting with the  
10 agreement of an agency, are hereby granted dedicated funding sources  
11 for such systems. These dedicated funding sources, as set forth in  
12 RCW 81.104.150, 81.104.160, 81.104.170, and 81.104.175, are  
13 authorized only for agencies located in (a) each county with a  
14 population of two hundred ten thousand or more and (b) each county  
15 with a population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less  
16 than two hundred ten thousand except for those counties that do not  
17 border a county with a population as described under (a) of this  
18 subsection. In any county with a population of one million or more or  
19 in any county having a population of four hundred thousand or more  
20 bordering a county with a population of one million or more, these  
21 funding sources may be imposed only by a regional transit authority  
22 or a regional transportation investment district. Regional  
23 transportation investment districts may, with the approval of the  
24 regional transit authority within its boundaries, impose the taxes  
25 authorized under this chapter, but only upon approval of the voters  
26 and to the extent that the maximum amount of taxes authorized under  
27 this chapter have not been imposed.

28 (2) Agencies planning to construct and operate a high capacity  
29 transportation system should also seek other funds, including  
30 federal, state, local, and private sector assistance.

31 (3) Funding sources should satisfy each of the following criteria  
32 to the greatest extent possible:

- 33 (a) Acceptability;
- 34 (b) Ease of administration;
- 35 (c) Equity;
- 36 (d) Implementation feasibility;
- 37 (e) Revenue reliability; and
- 38 (f) Revenue yield.

1 (4) (a) Agencies participating in regional high capacity  
2 transportation system development are authorized to levy and collect  
3 the following voter-approved local option funding sources:

4 (i) Employer tax as provided in RCW 81.104.150, other than by  
5 regional transportation investment districts;

6 (ii) ~~((Special motor vehicle excise tax as provided in RCW  
7 81.104.160;~~

8 ~~(iii))~~ Regular property tax as provided in 81.104.175; and

9 ~~((iv))~~ (iii) Sales and use tax as provided in RCW 81.104.170.

10 (b) Revenues from these taxes may be used only to support those  
11 purposes prescribed in subsection (10) of this section. Before the  
12 date of an election authorizing an agency to impose any of the taxes  
13 enumerated in this section and authorized in RCW 81.104.150,  
14 81.104.160, 81.104.170, and 81.104.175, the agency must comply with  
15 the process prescribed in RCW 81.104.100 (1) and (2) and 81.104.110.  
16 No construction on exclusive right-of-way may occur before the  
17 requirements of RCW 81.104.100(3) are met.

18 (5) Except for the regular property tax authorized in 81.104.175,  
19 the authorization in subsection (4) of this section may not adversely  
20 affect the funding authority of transit agencies not provided for in  
21 this chapter. Local option funds may be used to support  
22 implementation of interlocal agreements with respect to the  
23 establishment of regional high capacity transportation service.  
24 Except when a regional transit authority exists, local jurisdictions  
25 must retain control over moneys generated within their boundaries,  
26 although funds may be commingled with those generated in other areas  
27 for planning, construction, and operation of high capacity  
28 transportation systems as set forth in the agreements.

29 (6) Except for the regular property tax authorized in 81.104.175,  
30 agencies planning to construct and operate high capacity  
31 transportation systems may contract with the state for collection and  
32 transference of voter-approved local option revenue.

33 (7) Dedicated high capacity transportation funding sources  
34 authorized in RCW 81.104.150, 81.104.160, 81.104.170, and 81.104.175  
35 are subject to voter approval by a simple majority. A single ballot  
36 proposition may seek approval for one or more of the authorized  
37 taxing sources. The ballot title must reference the document  
38 identified in subsection (8) of this section.

39 (8) Agencies must provide to the registered voters in the area a  
40 document describing the systems plan and the financing plan set forth

1 in RCW 81.104.100. It must also describe the relationship of the  
2 system to regional issues such as development density at station  
3 locations and activity centers, and the interrelationship of the  
4 system to adopted land use and transportation demand management goals  
5 within the region. This document must be provided to the voters at  
6 least twenty days prior to the date of the election.

7 (9) For any election in which voter approval is sought for a high  
8 capacity transportation system plan and financing plan pursuant to  
9 RCW 81.104.040, a local voter's pamphlet must be produced as provided  
10 in chapter 29A.32 RCW.

11 (10)(a) Agencies providing high capacity transportation service  
12 must retain responsibility for revenue encumbrance, disbursement, and  
13 bonding. Funds may be used for any purpose relating to planning,  
14 construction, and operation of high capacity transportation systems  
15 and commuter rail systems, personal rapid transit, busways, bus sets,  
16 and entrained and linked buses.

17 (b) A regional transit authority that (~~imposes a motor vehicle~~  
18 ~~excise tax after the effective date of this section,~~) imposes a  
19 property tax(~~(r)~~) or increases a sales and use tax to more than nine-  
20 tenths of one percent must undertake a process in which the  
21 authority's board formally considers inclusion of the name, Scott  
22 White, in the naming convention associated with either the University  
23 of Washington or Roosevelt stations.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The following acts or parts of acts are  
25 each repealed:

26 (1) RCW 82.44.035 (Valuation of vehicles) and 2010 c 161 s 910 &  
27 2006 c 318 s 1; and

28 (2) RCW 81.104.160 (Motor vehicle excise tax for regional transit  
29 authorities---Sales and use tax on car rentals---Former motor vehicle  
30 excise tax repealed) and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 319, 2010 c 161 s 903,  
31 2009 c 280 s 4, 2003 c 1 s 6 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved  
32 November 5, 2002), & 1998 c 321 s 35 (Referendum Bill No. 49,  
33 approved November 3, 1998).

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112  
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 In order to effectuate the policies, purposes, and intent of this  
37 act and to ensure that the motor vehicle excise taxes repealed by  
38 this act are no longer imposed or collected, an authority that

1 imposes a motor vehicle excise tax under RCW 81.104.160 must fully  
2 retire, defease, or refinance any outstanding bonds issued under this  
3 chapter if:

4 (1) Any revenue collected prior to the effective date of this  
5 section from the motor vehicle excise tax imposed under RCW  
6 81.104.160 has been pledged to such bonds; and

7 (2) The bonds, by virtue of the terms of the bond contract,  
8 covenants, or similar terms, may be retired or defeased early or  
9 refinanced.

10 **Sec. 13.** RCW 81.104.160 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 319 are each  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (1) Regional transit authorities that include a county with a  
13 population of more than one million five hundred thousand may submit  
14 an authorizing proposition to the voters, and if approved, may levy  
15 and collect an excise tax, at a rate approved by the voters, but not  
16 exceeding (~~eight-tenths~~) two-tenths of one percent on the value,  
17 under chapter 82.44 RCW, of every motor vehicle owned by a resident  
18 of the taxing district, solely for the purpose of providing high  
19 capacity transportation service. The maximum tax rate under this  
20 subsection does not include a motor vehicle excise tax approved  
21 before the effective date of this section, if the tax will terminate  
22 on the date bond debt to which the tax is pledged is repaid. This tax  
23 does not apply to vehicles licensed under RCW 46.16A.455 except  
24 vehicles with an unladen weight of six thousand pounds or less, RCW  
25 46.16A.425 or 46.17.335(2). Notwithstanding any other provision of  
26 this subsection or chapter 82.44 RCW, a motor vehicle excise tax  
27 imposed by a regional transit authority before or after the effective  
28 date of this section, must comply with chapter 82.44 RCW as it  
29 existed on January 1, 1996, until December 31st of the year in which  
30 the regional transit authority repays bond debt to which a motor  
31 vehicle excise tax was pledged before the effective date of this  
32 section. Motor vehicle taxes collected by regional transit  
33 authorities after December 31st of the year in which a regional  
34 transit authority repays bond debt to which a motor vehicle excise  
35 tax was pledged before the effective date of this section must comply  
36 with chapter 82.44 RCW as it existed on the date the tax was approved  
37 by voters.

38 (2) An agency and high capacity transportation corridor area may  
39 impose a sales and use tax solely for the purpose of providing high

1 capacity transportation service, in addition to the tax authorized by  
2 RCW 82.14.030, upon retail car rentals within the applicable  
3 jurisdiction that are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and  
4 82.12 RCW. The rate of tax may not exceed 2.172 percent. The rate of  
5 tax imposed under this subsection must bear the same ratio of the  
6 2.172 percent authorized that the rate imposed under subsection (1)  
7 of this section bears to the rate authorized under subsection (1) of  
8 this section. The base of the tax is the selling price in the case of  
9 a sales tax or the rental value of the vehicle used in the case of a  
10 use tax.

11 (3) Any motor vehicle excise tax previously imposed under the  
12 provisions of RCW 81.104.160(1) shall be repealed, terminated, and  
13 expire on December 5, 2002, except for a motor vehicle excise tax for  
14 which revenues have been contractually pledged to repay a bonded debt  
15 issued before December 5, 2002, as determined by *Pierce County et al.*  
16 *v. State*, 159 Wn.2d 16, 148 P.3d 1002 (2006). In the case of bonds  
17 that were previously issued, the motor vehicle excise tax must comply  
18 with chapter 82.44 RCW as it existed on January 1, 1996.

19 (4) If a regional transit authority imposes the tax authorized  
20 under subsection (1) of this section, the authority may not receive  
21 any state grant funds provided in an omnibus transportation  
22 appropriations act except transit coordination grants created in  
23 chapter 11, Laws of 2015 3rd sp. sess.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** CONSTRUCTION CLAUSE. The provisions of  
25 this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the intent,  
26 policies, and purposes of this act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of  
28 this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held  
29 invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision  
30 to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** EFFECTIVE DATE. (1) Sections 10 and 11 of  
32 this act take effect on the date that the regional transit authority  
33 complies with section 12 of this act and retires, defeases, or  
34 refinances its outstanding bonds.

35 (2) Section 13 takes effect April 1, 2020, if sections 10 and 11  
36 of this act have not taken effect by March 31, 2020.



1 (3) The regional transit authority must provide written notice of  
2 the effective dates of sections 10, 11, and 13 of this act to  
3 affected parties, the chief clerk of the house of representatives,  
4 the secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and  
5 others as deemed appropriate by the regional transit authority.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** TITLE. This act is known and may be cited  
7 as "Bring Back Our \$30 Car Tabs."

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** Except for sections 10, 11, and 13 of  
9 this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the  
10 public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government  
11 and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** This act applies retroactively to  
13 December 5, 2019.

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