

---

HOUSE BILL 2569

---

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Stambaugh, Kilduff, Muri, Stokesbary, and  
Harmsworth

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting trailers from motor vehicle excise  
2 taxes imposed by regional transit authorities; amending RCW  
3 81.104.160 and 82.44.125; and creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 81.104.160 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 319 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) Regional transit authorities that include a county with a  
8 population of more than one million five hundred thousand may submit  
9 an authorizing proposition to the voters, and if approved, may levy  
10 and collect an excise tax, at a rate approved by the voters, but not  
11 exceeding eight-tenths of one percent on the value, under chapter  
12 82.44 RCW, of every motor vehicle owned by a resident of the taxing  
13 district, solely for the purpose of providing high capacity  
14 transportation service. The maximum tax rate under this subsection  
15 does not include a motor vehicle excise tax approved before July 15,  
16 2015, if the tax will terminate on the date bond debt to which the  
17 tax is pledged is repaid. This tax does not apply to: Trailers as  
18 defined in RCW 46.04.620; and vehicles licensed under RCW 46.16A.455  
19 except vehicles with an unladen weight of six thousand pounds or  
20 less, RCW 46.16A.425 or 46.17.335(2). Notwithstanding any other  
21 provision of this subsection or chapter 82.44 RCW, a motor vehicle

1 excise tax imposed by a regional transit authority before or after  
2 July 15, 2015, must comply with chapter 82.44 RCW as it existed on  
3 January 1, 1996, until December 31st of the year in which the  
4 regional transit authority repays bond debt to which a motor vehicle  
5 excise tax was pledged before July 15, 2015. Motor vehicle taxes  
6 collected by regional transit authorities after December 31st of the  
7 year in which a regional transit authority repays bond debt to which  
8 a motor vehicle excise tax was pledged before July 15, 2015, must  
9 comply with chapter 82.44 RCW as it existed on the date the tax was  
10 approved by voters.

11 (2) An agency and high capacity transportation corridor area may  
12 impose a sales and use tax solely for the purpose of providing high  
13 capacity transportation service, in addition to the tax authorized by  
14 RCW 82.14.030, upon retail car rentals within the applicable  
15 jurisdiction that are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and  
16 82.12 RCW. The rate of tax may not exceed 2.172 percent. The rate of  
17 tax imposed under this subsection must bear the same ratio of the  
18 2.172 percent authorized that the rate imposed under subsection (1)  
19 of this section bears to the rate authorized under subsection (1) of  
20 this section. The base of the tax is the selling price in the case of  
21 a sales tax or the rental value of the vehicle used in the case of a  
22 use tax.

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

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

36 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.44.125 and 2010 c 161 s 908 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

38 (1) The motor vehicle excise tax authorized under this chapter  
39 applies to the following vehicles:

1 (a) Commercial trailers, as defined in RCW 46.04.136;  
2 (b) Farm trucks registered under RCW 46.16A.425;  
3 (c) Fixed load vehicles, as defined in RCW 46.04.186;  
4 (d) Motor homes, as defined in RCW 46.04.305;  
5 (e) Motor trucks, as defined in RCW 46.04.310, with a scale  
6 weight greater than six thousand pounds; and  
7 (f) Motor vehicles, as defined in RCW 46.04.320(~~(; and~~  
8 ~~(g) Trailers, as defined in RCW 46.04.620~~)).  
9 (2) The motor vehicle excise tax authorized under this chapter  
10 does not apply to the following vehicles:  
11 (a) Campers, as defined in RCW 46.04.085;  
12 (b) Dock and warehouse tractors and their cars or trailers;  
13 (c) Equipment not designed primarily for use on public highways;  
14 (d) Exempt registered vehicles;  
15 (e) Lumber carriers of the type known as spiders;  
16 (f) Mobile homes, as defined in RCW 46.04.302;  
17 (g) Passenger motor vehicles, as described in RCW 82.44.015;  
18 (h) Travel trailers, as defined in RCW 46.04.623;  
19 (i) Vehicles not used on the public highways; and  
20 (j) Vehicles owned by nonresident military personnel of the armed  
21 forces of the United States stationed in the state of Washington if  
22 the nonresident military member was a nonresident of this state when  
23 enlisted into military service.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act applies to vehicle registrations  
25 that are due or become due on or after June 30, 2018.

--- END ---