
SENATE BILL 5907

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Lias, Hobbs, Palumbo, Darneille, Wellman, Saldaña, Mullet, and Keiser

1 AN ACT Relating to prioritizing transit agency integration for
2 regional mobility grants in counties with a population of seven
3 hundred thousand or more; amending RCW 47.66.030; creating a new
4 section; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The central Puget Sound is projected to
7 grow considerably, in both population and jobs, over the course of
8 the next several decades. In November 2016, the voters within the
9 sound transit district approved a fifty-four billion dollar,
10 taxpayer-funded light rail, heavy rail, and bus expansion in the
11 Puget Sound region. However, it is also important that all of the
12 central Puget Sound's transportation infrastructure be well planned
13 and coordinated, including its transit systems. It is the intent of
14 the legislature to reform the planning and coordination process for
15 central Puget Sound transit systems, in order to improve the user
16 experience, increase ridership, and make the most effective use of
17 tax dollars.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.66.030 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 11 s 3 are each
19 amended to read as follows:

1 (1)(a) The department shall establish a regional mobility grant
2 program. The purpose of the grant program is to aid local governments
3 in funding projects such as intercounty connectivity service, park
4 and ride lots, rush hour transit service, and capital projects that
5 improve the connectivity and efficiency of our transportation system.
6 The department shall identify cost-effective projects that reduce
7 delay for people and goods and improve connectivity between counties
8 and regional population centers. The department shall submit a
9 prioritized list of all projects requesting funding to the
10 legislature by December 1st of each year.

11 (b) Once the department has a prioritized list, pursuant to (a)
12 of this subsection and RCW 47.66.040, of all projects requesting
13 funding, the department shall reprioritize the projects in counties
14 with a population of seven hundred thousand or more that border Puget
15 Sound based on the same criteria used for the prioritized list as
16 well as the additional criteria of coordination and integration.
17 After this reprioritization, the department shall integrate these
18 reprioritized projects with the prioritized projects from all other
19 counties while ensuring that the prioritized projects from all other
20 counties do not move to a lower relative position on this integrated
21 list or, if a prioritized project from all other counties is in the
22 funded portion of the prioritized list, out of the funded portion of
23 this integrated list.

24 (c)(i) Beginning in 2020, transit agencies located in counties
25 with a population of seven hundred thousand or more that border Puget
26 Sound must be able to demonstrate reasonable progress, as determined
27 by the department, in integrating service with the regional transit
28 authority located in the same county in order to be eligible for
29 grants from the regional mobility grant program.

30 (ii)(A) For purposes of this subsection (1)(c), "reasonable
31 progress" must be defined by rule by the department after
32 consultation with the affected transit agencies, taking into
33 consideration the criteria of (c)(ii)(B) of this subsection, and
34 using 2017 as the year from which reasonable progress will be
35 measured.

36 (B) For purposes of (c)(ii)(A) of this subsection, the department
37 shall consider the following criteria:

38 (I) Integration of marketing efforts;

39 (II) Alignment of fare structures;

40 (III) Integration of service planning;

1 (IV) Coordination of long-range planning, including capital
2 projects planning and implementation;

3 (V) Integration of other administrative functions and internal
4 business processes as appropriate; and

5 (VI) Integration of customer-focused tools and initiatives.

6 (2) The department may establish an advisory committee to carry
7 out the mandates of this chapter.

8 (3) The department must report annually to the transportation
9 committees of the legislature on the status of any grants projects
10 funded by the program created under this section.

11 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
13 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
14 effect immediately.

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