
SENATE BILL 5742

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Kauffman and Lias

1 AN ACT Relating to codifying certain existing grant programs at
2 the department of transportation; adding new sections to chapter
3 47.66 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 47.76 RCW; and adding a new
4 section to chapter 47.04 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.66
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall establish a paratransit and special
9 needs grant program to sustain and expand transit service to people
10 with disabilities.

11 (2) Of the amounts appropriated to the program, 23 percent shall
12 be provided solely for grants to nonprofit providers of special needs
13 transportation. Grants for nonprofit providers must be based on need,
14 including the availability of other providers of service in the area,
15 efforts to coordinate trips among providers and riders, and the cost-
16 effectiveness of trips provided.

17 (3) The remaining 77 percent of amounts appropriated to the
18 program shall be provided solely for grants to transit agencies to
19 support persons with special transportation needs. To receive a
20 grant, the transit agency must, to the greatest extent practicable,
21 have a maintenance of effort for special needs transportation that is

1 no less than the previous year's maintenance of effort for special
2 needs transportation. Grants for transit agencies must be prorated
3 based on the amount expended for demand response service and route
4 deviates service published in the most recent publishing of the
5 department's "Summary of Public Transportation" report. No transit
6 agency shall receive more than 30 percent of the distribution.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.66
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The department shall establish a public transit ride share
10 program. The grant program shall provide resources for:

11 (a) Public transit agencies to add or replace ride share
12 vehicles; and

13 (b) Incentives and outreach to increase ride share use.

14 (2) The grant program for public transit agencies may cover
15 capital costs only and costs for operating vanpools at public transit
16 agencies are not eligible for funding. Awards from the grant shall
17 not be used to supplant transit funds currently funding ride share
18 programs, nor be used to hire additional employees.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.76
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) The department shall establish a freight rail investment bank
22 program to provide low-interest loans to entities based on the
23 legislative priorities as outlined in RCW 47.76.240.

24 (2) The department shall issue freight rail investment bank
25 program loans with a repayment period of no more than 10 years, and
26 charge only so much interest as is necessary to recoup the
27 department's costs to administer the loans.

28 (3) The department shall report annually to the transportation
29 committees of the legislature and the office of financial management
30 on all freight rail investment bank loans issued.

31 (4) Projects shall be evaluated using the following cost-benefit
32 methodology:

33 (a) Economic, safety, or environmental advantages of freight
34 movement by rail compared to alternative modes;

35 (b) Self-sustaining economic development that creates family-wage
36 jobs;

37 (c) Preservation of transportation corridors that would otherwise
38 be lost;

1 (d) Increased access to efficient and cost-effective transport to
2 market for Washington's agricultural and industrial products;

3 (e) Better integration and cooperation within the regional,
4 national, and international systems of freight distribution; and

5 (f) Mitigation of impacts of increased rail traffic on
6 communities.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 47.76
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The department shall establish the statewide emergent freight
10 rail assistance program to award grants based on the legislative
11 priorities as outlined in RCW 47.76.240.

12 (2) Grants shall be selected using the cost-benefit methodology
13 as outlined in section 3 of this act.

14 (3) The department shall report annually to the transportation
15 committees of the legislature and the office of financial management
16 on all freight rail assistance program grants issued.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 47.04
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) The department shall create a bicyclist and pedestrian grant
20 program to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility and
21 increase active transportation trips.

22 (2) Project types may include, but are not limited to, bicycle
23 facilities such as buffered bike lanes, pedestrian facilities such as
24 sidewalks, crossing improvements for people who walk and roll, and
25 speed management.

26 (3) The department shall report on an annual basis the status of
27 projects funded as part of the bicyclist and pedestrian grant and
28 safe routes to school grant programs. The report must include, but is
29 not limited to, a list of projects selected and a brief description
30 of each project's status.

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