
SENATE BILL 5908

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Senators Palumbo, Mullet, Hobbs, Liiias, Darneille, and Keiser

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a taxpayer accountability statement
2 to be included with regional transit authority motor vehicle excise
3 taxes; amending RCW 81.104.190; creating a new section; and declaring
4 an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In November 2016, the voters within the
7 sound transit district approved a fifty-four billion dollar,
8 taxpayer-funded light rail, heavy rail, and bus expansion in the
9 Puget Sound region. Ensuring that taxpayers understand how funds
10 collected by sound transit are used is critical to achieving trust
11 between the agency and the public. The legislature finds that the
12 opportunities to provide transparency and understanding regarding the
13 use of taxpayer dollars should be maximized. To achieve this end, a
14 sound transit taxpayer accountability statement will be placed on the
15 annual registration renewal notifications provided by the department
16 of licensing, which will contain easy-to-access and easy-to-
17 understand information on sound transit project status and financial
18 audits.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 81.104.190 and 2009 c 280 s 7 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

1 (1) Cities that operate transit systems, county transportation
2 authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, public
3 transportation benefit areas, high capacity transportation corridor
4 areas, and regional transit systems may contract with the state
5 department of revenue or other appropriate entities for
6 administration and collection of any tax authorized by RCW
7 81.104.150, 81.104.160, and 81.104.170.

8 (2)(a) A regional transit authority that includes a county with a
9 population of more than one million five hundred thousand, if it
10 contracts for the collection of a tax authorized by RCW 81.104.160,
11 must require the inclusion of a taxpayer accountability statement
12 when notification is sent to any person regarding the amount of tax
13 levied under RCW 81.104.160.

14 (b) For purposes of this subsection, a taxpayer accountability
15 statement must include the following:

16 (i) A statement indicating which of the regional transit
17 authority's projects are in scope, on time, and on budget and which
18 are not;

19 (ii) A link or web site address to audited financial statements
20 for the regional transit authority;

21 (iii) A link or web site address to fiscal information on the
22 regional transit authority's projects; and

23 (iv) The number of a hotline to be provided by the department of
24 licensing to expedite contact with the appropriate regional transit
25 authority.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate
27 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
28 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
29 effect immediately.

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