

## Substitute House Bill 1694 (2007)

### Directing JTC Study of Special Needs Transportation Programs

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 7** (1) The joint transportation committee, in consultation with the agency council on coordinated transportation and the joint legislative audit and review committee, as deemed appropriate by the committee, shall conduct a study and review the legal and programmatic changes and best practices necessary for effective coordination of transportation services at the regional level for persons with special transportation needs.

(2) The study shall:

(a) Include a comprehensive, statewide survey of existing transportation resources for persons with special transportation needs;

(b) Identify opportunities for improving coordination by determining a uniform system of:

(i) Measuring and reporting trip costs;

(ii) Provider billing practices;

(iii) Provider agreements and reporting requirements; and

(iv) Sharing eligibility information and trip requirements; and

(c) Make recommendations for:

(i) Improving access to customer services;

(ii) Integrating services of transportation service providers and brokers; and

(iii) Best practices to effectively coordinate transportation services for persons with special transportation needs.

(3) In conducting the study, the committee shall:

(a) Convene one or more meetings to consult with local and regional special needs transportation providers, brokers, users of transit services, representatives of nonprofit organizations that provide related transportation services, including hopelink, and representatives of other agencies and organizations, including the department of social and health services;

(b) Identify federal funding and related program barriers to improved coordination between state and federal programs and to reasonable cost sharing for those programs;

(c) Review and consider other relevant model coordinated special needs transportation systems throughout the nation as a source of best practices for Washington state, including the ACCESS transportation system in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;

(d) Evaluate using nontraditional service providers, such as public utility districts;

(e) Evaluate methods to influence facility siting decisions for state agencies serving persons with special transportation needs in order to make facilities accessible; and

(f) Evaluate appropriate standards and strategies for a decentralized broker system, including the state's role in this system.

(4) The committee shall provide a draft final report to the transportation committees of the senate and the house of representatives by December 15, 2008.