

HOW TO READ THE BILL HISTORY PAGE

This tutorial will show you how to read the bill information and history page for a bill. This page and the next show the bill history for HB 2480 from the 2007-08 legislative session as it appears on the webpage. Beginning on page 3 this bill history is shown with a detailed explanation of what each line means.

HB 2480 - 2007-08



Concerning public transportation fares.

[Go to Documents](#)

History of Bill

as of Wednesday, July 1, 2009 3:51 PM

Sponsors: Representatives [Clibborn](#), [McIntire](#), [Simpson](#)

Companion Bill: [SB 6353](#)

2008 REGULAR SESSION

Dec 21	Prefiled for introduction.
Jan 14	First reading, referred to Transportation. (View Original Bill)
Jan 17	Public hearing in the House Committee on Transportation at 3:30 PM.
Jan 29	Executive action taken in the House Committee on Transportation at 3:30 PM.
	TR - Executive action taken by committee.
	TR - Majority; 1st substitute bill be substituted, do pass. (View 1st Substitute)
	Minority; do not pass.
Feb 1	<u>Passed to Rules Committee for second reading.</u>
Feb 12	<u>Made eligible to be placed on second reading.</u>
Feb 13	Placed on second reading.
Feb 14	1st substitute bill substituted (TR 08). (View 1st Substitute)
	Floor amendment(s) adopted.
	Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading.
	Third reading, passed; yeas, 84; nays, 10; absent, 0; excused, 4. (View Roll Calls)
	(View 1st Engrossed)

IN THE SENATE

Feb 16	First reading, referred to Transportation.
Feb 20	Public hearing in the Senate Committee on Transportation at 1:30 PM.
Feb 26	Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Transportation at 3:30 PM.
Feb 28	TRAN - Majority; do pass with amendment(s).
	<u>Passed to Rules Committee for second reading.</u>
Mar 3	<u>Made eligible to be placed on second reading.</u>
Mar 6	<u>Placed on second reading by Rules Committee.</u>
Mar 7	Committee amendment adopted with no other amendments.
	Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading.
	Third reading, passed; yeas, 48; nays, 0; absent, 0; excused, 1. (View Roll Calls)

IN THE HOUSE

Mar 10	House concurred in Senate amendments.
	Passed final passage; yeas, 86; nays, 8; absent, 0; excused, 4. (View Roll Calls)

Mar 12 Speaker signed.
IN THE SENATE
President signed.

OTHER THAN LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Mar 13 Delivered to Governor. ([View Bill as Passed Legislature](#))
Mar 25 Governor signed.
Chapter 123, 2008 Laws. ([View Session Law](#))
Effective date 6/12/2008.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL HISTORY PAGE LINE BY LINE

HB 2480 - 2007-08

HB indicates that this is a House Bill. Senate Bills start with SB. The title of the bill is listed just below this line.



This orange icon is used to add the bill to an RSS feed (which is kind of a bill tracking system). For more information on this click on the "what is this" link.

Concerning public transportation fares.

[Go to Documents](#)

The link "Go to Documents" takes you to the bottom of the page where you can see all of the documents associated with the bill. Throughout the document you can see items in green and underlined. These are simply links to other pages with more information.

History of Bill

as of Wednesday, July 1, 2009 3:51 PM

Sponsors: Representatives [Clibborn](#), [McIntire](#), [Simpson](#)

This line lists the sponsors of the bill. The first person listed, in this case Representative Clibborn, is always the prime sponsor and the rest of the members are listed as the co-sponsors.

Companion Bill: [SB 6353](#)

Some bills have companion bills and if so, they are shown here. In this case the companion bill is SB 6353 you can click on the link to open up the bill history for that bill. Companion bills are introduced in the belief that they will have a better chance of one of them getting through the legislative process. They start out as identical bills. Of course, after one or the other or both of them get amended they may no longer be identical.

2008 REGULAR SESSION

Dec 21 Prefiled for introduction.

Beginning with the actual history of the bill, we can see that it was pre-filed on December 21st in advance of the actual beginning date of the legislative session. Any member may pre-file a bill beginning the first Monday in December. These bills don't actually get worked on until the session starts.

Jan 14 First reading, referred to Transportation. ([View Original Bill](#))


*The first reading for this bill took place on January 14th. Each bill gets 3 readings. The first reading is its **introduction**. **The second reading is the place in the process where any member has the opportunity to amend the bill** and the third reading is time for debate and final passage of the bill. If it is passed it goes to the opposite house and repeats the process. So this bill was introduced on Jan 14th and was referred to the Transportation Committee.*

Jan 17 Public hearing in the House Committee on Transportation at 3:30 PM.

The bill was then scheduled for a public hearing on January 17th at 3:30 in the afternoon. This line currently shows that a public hearing was held, but the public meeting date is posted in advance of the actual meeting so you can use this page to see when upcoming public meetings are scheduled.

Jan 29 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Transportation at 3:30 PM.

A little over a week later on January 29th the committee took executive action at 3:30 in the afternoon . Executive action just means that the committee voted to do something with the bill— usually to pass it on to the next step which may be a money or fiscal committee or the rules committee. Committee meetings with executive action are open to the public just like all other committee meetings but no public testimony is taken. The meetings are also posted here in advance of the scheduled time.

 TR - Executive action taken by committee.
TR - Majority; 1st substitute bill be substituted, do pass. (View 1st Substitute)
Minority; do not pass.

These three lines above show the type of executive action taken by the committee and are posted when the committee report with a complete set of signatures is issued, in this case also on Jan 29th. This data may not always be available the same day as the committee meeting.

The January 29th entry shows that the committee report was issued confirming that executive action was taken by the committee and that the majority of the committee members recommended that a substitute bill be substituted for the original. The minority of the committee recommended that the bill not be passed. A substitute bill is one where a number of committee amendments are consolidated into a single document for convenience. When and if the bill gets to the floor of the chamber, the members will vote on which version of the bill to consider—the original or one of the substitutes. The capital letters TR are just the abbreviation for the full committee name, in this case Transportation, shown on the line above.

Many bills go to a second committee, usually a money or fiscal committee like the Ways and Means Committee. If they make recommendations for addition amendments, those recommendations would be contained in a Second Substitute bill and the version of the bill that the entire membership would decide to consider (the Original, 1st or 2nd Substitute) would be decided as part of the second reading process which occurs later.

Feb 1 Passed to Rules Committee for second reading.

After being passed out of the Transportation Committee, the bill was sent to the Rules Committee on February 1st. The exact phrasing here “passed to the rules committee for second reading” really means that the bill was referred to the first step in a two step process in the rules committee and that if it gets passed out of the rules committee it will go on the floor calendar to await a second reading. The floor calendar is just a list of bills that may be considered by the entire membership of the Senate or the House. Anytime you see a dotted underlining on the bill history page you can place your cursor over it for a more complete description of the legislative action.

Feb 12 Made eligible to be placed on second reading.

On February 12th, the bill was made eligible to be placed on second reading. This phrasing means the bill has passed first of two steps in the rules committee and is eligible in the next rules meeting to be sent to the entire membership for their consideration.

Feb 13 Placed on second reading.

On February 13th the phrase “placed on second reading” means the bill was passed out of the rules committee and placed on the second reading calendar to await its debate by the entire membership of the House. For a more detailed explanation of the Rules Committee Process please see our document on the Legislative Information Center’s document page on this website. Click on the link to the Legislative Information Center, then on Legislative Documents and then on Education and Instructional Material. Finally, click on the pdf link under [Rules Committee Procedures](#) to get the document.

Feb 14 **1st substitute bill substituted (TR 08).** ([View 1st Substitute](#))

On February 14th, the bill got its second reading on the floor of the House before all the members. As part of that process, the entire House membership voted to consider the 1st substitute bill recommended by the Transportation Committee rather than the original bill. The TR08 in parentheses refers the committee and the year the substitute bill was created.

Floor amendment(s) adopted.

Also as part of this 2nd reading process, one or more floor amendments were offered and adopted. Floor amendments (as opposed to committee amendments) are amendments that can be proposed by any member when the entire Senate or House is gathered in full session on the floor of their respective chambers. You can see how many were proposed and adopted at the bottom of the page with all the rest of the legislative documents.

Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading.

Third reading, passed; yeas, 84; nays, 10; absent, 0; excused, 4. ([View Roll Calls](#))
([View 1st Engrossed](#))

Also on the same day, the members of the House voted to suspend the rules requiring a 24 hour wait before a third reading and final passage and went ahead and debated and passed the final version of the bill 84-10 with 4 members excused.

Bills that have been amended on the floor of the house of origin also get a special term—they are called engrossed bills. So bills amended in committee are called substitute bills and bills amended on the floor are called engrossed bills. As a result there can be regular bills, substitute bills, engrossed bills, and even engrossed substitute bills.

Once the bill has been passed in the house of origin, it goes over to the opposite house—in this case the Senate and it goes through the same process as it did in the original house.

IN THE SENATE

Feb 16 First reading, referred to Transportation.

On February 16th, the bill got its first reading in the Senate and was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

Feb 20 Public hearing in the Senate Committee on Transportation at 1:30 PM.

On February 20th the bill had a public hearing in the Transportation Committee at 1:30 pm....

Feb 26 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Transportation at 3:30 PM.

On February 26th, the Transportation Committee took executive action at 3:30 in the afternoon.

Feb 28 TRAN - Majority; do pass with amendment(s).
Passed to Rules Committee for second reading.

On February 28th committee report was issued confirming that executive action was taken and indicating that the majority of the Transportation Committee recommended that the bill be passed with the amendments they made to it (DO PASS WITH AMENDMENTS). Again the TRAN is just the abbreviation for the committee name shown in the line above. The bill was sent to the rules committee this same day and placed on the first of the two calendars in the rules committee

Mar 3 Made eligible to be placed on second reading.

On March 3rd the bill saw further action in the rules committee and was advanced to the second rules calendar.

Mar 6 Placed on second reading by Rules Committee.

On March 6th, Rules Committee sent the bill to the floor where it was placed on the second reading calendar to await its debate by the entire membership of the Senate.

Mar 7 Committee amendment adopted with no other amendments.

Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading.

Third reading, passed; yeas, 48; nays, 0; absent, 0; excused, 1. ([View Roll Calls](#))

On March 7th, the bill was brought up for its second reading and the Senate membership voted to adopt the recommended committee amendment. On the same day, the members of the Senate voted to suspend the rules requiring a 24 hour wait before a third reading and final passage, and went ahead and debated and passed the final version of the bill 48-0 with 1 member excused.

Since the bill was amended in the Senate, it is no longer the same bill that the House passed so the amendments that the Senate made have to be approved by the House. This is called concurrence.

IN THE HOUSE

Mar 10 House concurred in Senate amendments.

Passed final passage; yeas, 86; nays, 8; absent, 0; excused, 4. ([View Roll Calls](#))

On March 10th, the House concurred with the Senate Amendments and voted to pass the bill as amended by the Senate 86-8 with 4 members excused.

Mar 12 Speaker signed.

IN THE SENATE

President signed.

On March 12th the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and signed the bill and sent it to the Governor.

OTHER THAN LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Mar 13 Delivered to Governor. ([View Bill as Passed Legislature](#))

On March 13th the bill was delivered to the Governor and;

Mar 25 Governor signed.

Chapter 123, 2008 Laws. ([View Session Law](#))

Effective date 6/12/2008.

On March 25th the Governor signed the bill and it became the 123rd bill signed into law in the year 2008 with an effective date of June 12th

HOW TO READ THE BILL HISTORY PAGE

This is a typical bill history but other things can happen to a bill as part of the legislative process. Most of these actions will be self explanatory but if you ever have any questions about this process, please call us at 360-786-7573 or the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. You can also e-mail any questions you might have to support@leg.wa.gov.