

(1) Except as provided in this chapter or in the partnership agreement, a general partner of a limited partnership has the rights and powers and is subject to the restrictions (~~and liabilities~~) of a partner in a partnership without limited partners.

(2) Except as provided in this chapter, a general partner of a limited partnership has the liabilities of a partner in a partnership without limited partners to persons other than the partnership and the other partners. Except as provided in this chapter or in the partnership agreement, a general partner of a limited partnership has the liabilities of a partner in a partnership without limited partners to the partnership and to the other partners.

Passed the House April 22, 1983.

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## CHAPTER 303

[Engrossed House Bill No. 753]

### LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—MODIFICATIONS—STATE RAIL PLAN— COUNTY RAIL DISTRICTS

AN ACT Relating to local improvements; amending section 35.43.130, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 6, chapter 52, Laws of 1967 and RCW 35.43.130; amending section 35.43.150, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 and RCW 35.43.150; amending section 35.43.180, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 8, chapter 52, Laws of 1967 and RCW 35.43.180; amending section 19, chapter 2, Laws of 1983 and RCW 84.52.052; amending section 35.50.030, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 1, chapter 91, Laws of 1982 and RCW 35.50.030; amending section 35.50.230, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 3, chapter 91, Laws of 1982 and RCW 35.50.230; amending section 35.50.250, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 5, chapter 91, Laws of 1982 and RCW 35.50.250; amending section 35.50.260, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 7, chapter 91, Laws of 1982 and RCW 35.50.260; amending section 35.50.270, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 8, chapter 91, Laws of 1982 and RCW 35.50.270; adding a new chapter to Title 47 RCW; and adding a new chapter to Title 36 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 35.43.130, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 6, chapter 52, Laws of 1967 and RCW 35.43.130 are each amended to read as follows:

Upon the filing of a petition or upon the adoption of a resolution, as the case may be, initiating a proceeding for the formation of a local improvement district or utility local improvement district, the proper board, officer, or authority designated by charter or ordinance to make the preliminary estimates and assessment roll shall cause an estimate to be made of the cost and expense of the proposed improvement and certify it to the legislative authority of the city or town together with all papers and information in its possession touching the proposed improvement, a description of the boundaries of the district, and a statement of what portion of the cost and expense

of the improvement should be borne by the property within the proposed district (~~(, a statement in detail of the local improvement assessments outstanding and unpaid against the property in the proposed district, and a statement of the aggregate actual valuation of the real estate including twenty-five percent of the actual valuation of the improvements in the proposed district according to the valuation last placed upon it for the purposes of general taxation)~~).

If the proceedings were initiated by petition the designated board, officer or authority shall also determine the sufficiency of the petition and whether the facts set forth therein are true. If the petition is found to be sufficient and in all proceedings initiated by resolution of the legislative authority of the city or town, the estimates must be accompanied by a diagram showing thereon the lots, tracts, and parcels of land and other property which will be specially benefited by the proposed improvement and the estimated amount of the cost and expense thereof to be borne by each lot, tract, or parcel of land or other property: PROVIDED, That no such diagram shall be required where such estimates are on file in the office of the city engineer, or other designated city office, together with a detailed copy of the preliminary assessment roll and the plans and assessment maps of the proposed improvement.

For the purpose of estimating and levying local improvement assessments, the value of property of the United States, of the state, or of any county, city, town, school district, or other public corporation whose property is not assessed for general taxes shall be computed according to the standards afforded by similarly situated property which is assessed for general taxes.

Sec. 2. Section 35.43.150, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 and RCW 35.43.150 are each amended to read as follows:

Notice of the hearing upon a resolution declaring the intention of the legislative authority of a city or town to order an improvement shall be given by mail at least fifteen days before the day fixed for hearing to the owners or reputed owners of all lots, tracts, and parcels of land or other property to be specially benefited by the proposed improvement, as shown on the rolls of the county (~~(treasurer)~~) assessor, directed to the address thereon shown.

The notice shall set forth the nature of the proposed improvement, the estimated cost, and the estimated benefits of the particular lot, tract, or parcel.

Sec. 3. Section 35.43.180, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 8, chapter 52, Laws of 1967 and RCW 35.43.180 are each amended to read as follows:

The jurisdiction of the legislative authority of a city or town to proceed with any local improvement initiated by resolution shall be divested by a protest filed with the city or town council within thirty days from the date

of passage of the ordinance ordering the improvement, signed by the owners of the property within the proposed local improvement district or utility local improvement district subject to sixty percent or more of the total cost of the improvement including federally-owned or other nonassessable property as shown and determined by the preliminary estimates and assessment roll of the proposed improvement district or, if all or part of the local improvement district or utility local improvement district lies outside of the city or town, such jurisdiction shall be divested by a protest filed in the same manner and signed by the owners of property which is within the proposed local improvement district or utility local improvement district but outside the boundaries of the city or town, and which is subject to sixty percent or more of that part of the total cost of the improvement allocable to property within the proposed local improvement district or utility local improvement district but outside the boundaries of the city or town, including federally-owned or other nonassessable property: PROVIDED, That such restraint by protest shall not apply to ~~((any local improvement by sanitary sewers or watermains and fire hydrants where the health officer of any city or town shall file with the legislative authority thereof a report showing the necessity for such improvement accompanied by a report of the chief of the fire department in the event such improvement includes fire hydrants, and such))~~ any of the following local improvements, if the legislative body finds and recites in the ordinance or resolution authorizing the improvement that such improvement is necessary for the protection of the public health and safety and such ordinance or resolution is passed by unanimous vote of all members present: (1) Sanitary sewers or watermains where the health officer of the city or town, or department of ecology, files with the legislative authority a report showing the necessity for such improvement; and (2) fire hydrants where the chief of the fire department files a report showing the necessity for such improvement.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The legislature finds that the abandonment of rail lines and rail freight service may alter the delivery to market of many commodities. In addition, the resultant motor vehicle freight traffic increases the burden on state highways and county roads. In many cases, the cost of upgrading the state highways and county roads exceeds the cost of maintaining rail freight service. Thus, the economy of the state will be best served by a policy of maintaining and encouraging a healthy rail freight system by creating a mechanism which keeps rail freight lines operating if the benefits of the service outweigh the cost.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The transportation commission shall prepare and periodically update a state rail plan, the objective of which is to identify, evaluate, and encourage essential rail service. The plan shall:

- (a) Identify and evaluate those rail freight lines that may be abandoned;
- (b) Quantify the costs and benefits of maintaining rail service on those lines that are likely to be abandoned; and

(c) Establish priorities for determining which rail lines should receive state support. The priorities should include the anticipated benefits to the state and local economy, the anticipated cost of road and highway improvements necessitated by the abandonment of the rail line, the likelihood the rail line receiving funding can meet operating costs from freight charges, surcharges on rail traffic, and other funds authorized to be raised by a county or port district, and the impact of abandonment on changes in energy utilization and air pollution.

(2) The state rail plan may be prepared in conjunction with the rail plan prepared by the department pursuant to the federal railroad revitalization and regulatory reform act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. (1) The essential rail assistance account is hereby created in the state general fund. Moneys in the account may be appropriated only for the purposes specified in this section.

(2) Moneys in the account may be distributed to county rail districts and port districts for the purpose of:

(a) Acquiring, maintaining, or improving branch rail lines; or

(b) Operating railroad equipment necessary to maintain essential rail service.

(3) County rail districts and port districts may grant franchises to private railroads for the right to operate on lines acquired, repaired, or improved under this chapter.

(4) Moneys distributed under this section shall not exceed eighty percent of the cost of the service or project undertaken. At least twenty percent of the cost shall be provided by the county, port district, or other local sources.

(5) The amount distributed under this section shall be repaid to the state by the county rail district or port district. The repayment shall occur within ten years of the distribution of the moneys and shall be deposited in the essential rail assistance account. The repayment schedule and rate of interest, if any, shall be set at the time of the distribution of the moneys.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. Sections 4 through 6 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 47 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. Subject to section 9 of this act, the legislative authority of a county may establish one or more county rail districts within the county for the purpose of providing and funding improved rail freight service. The boundaries of county rail districts shall be drawn to include contiguous property in an area from which agricultural or other goods could be shipped by the rail service provided. The district shall not include property outside this area which does not, or, in the judgment of the county legislative authority, is not expected to produce goods which can be shipped by rail, or property substantially devoted to fruit crops or producing goods that are shipped in a direction away from the district. A county rail district is a

quasi municipal corporation, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

A county rail district shall constitute a body corporate and shall possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute, including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, to accept and expend or use gifts, grants, and donations, and to sue and be sued.

The county legislative authority shall be the governing body of a county rail district. The county treasurer shall act as the ex officio treasurer of the county rail district. The electors of a district are all registered voters residing within the district.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 9. (1) A county legislative authority proposing to establish a county rail district, or to modify the boundaries of an existing county rail district, or to dissolve an existing county rail district, shall conduct a hearing at the time and place specified in a notice published at least once, not less than ten days prior to the hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed county rail district. This notice shall be in addition to any other notice required by law to be published. Additional notice of the hearing may be given by mail, posting within the proposed county rail district, or in any manner<sup>d</sup> the county legislative authority deems necessary to notify affected persons. All hearings shall be public and the county legislative authority shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation, modification of the boundaries, or dissolution of the county rail district.

(2) Following the hearing held under subsection (1) of this section, the county legislative authority may adopt a resolution providing for the submission of a proposal to establish a county rail district, modify the boundaries of an existing county rail district, or dissolve an existing county rail district, if the county legislative authority finds the proposal to be in the public interest. The resolution shall contain the boundaries of the district if applicable.

A proposition to create a county rail district, modify the boundaries of an existing county rail district, or dissolve an existing rail district shall be submitted to the affected voters at the next general election held sixty or more days after the adoption of the resolution providing for the submittal by the county legislative authority. The resolution shall establish the boundaries of the district and include a finding that the creation of the district is in the public interest and that the area included within the district can reasonably be expected to benefit from its creation. No portion of a city may be included in such a district unless the entire city is included.

The district shall be created upon approval of the proposition by simple majority vote. The ballot proposition submitted to the voters shall be in substantially the following form:

**FORMATION OF COUNTY RAIL DISTRICT . . . . .**

Shall a county rail district be established for the area described in a resolution of the legislative authority of . . . . . county, adopted on the . . . . . day of . . . . . , 19 . . . ?

NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. A county rail district is authorized to contract with a person, partnership, or corporation to provide rail service along a light-density essential-service rail line for the purpose of carrying commodities. The district shall also have the power to acquire, maintain, improve, or extend rail facilities within the district that are necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the contracted rail service. A county rail district may receive state rail assistance under chapter 47. RCW (sections 4 through 6 of this act). Two or more county rail districts may enter into interlocal cooperation agreements under chapter 39.34 RCW to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. A county rail district is not authorized to impose a regular ad valorem property tax levy but may:

(1) Levy an ad valorem property tax, in excess of the one percent limitation, upon the property within the district for a one-year period to be used for operating or capital purposes whenever authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to RCW 84.52.052 and Article VII, section 2(a) of the state Constitution.

(2) Provide for the retirement of voter approved general obligation bonds, issued for capital purposes only, by levying bond retirement ad valorem property tax levies, in excess of the one percent limitation, whenever authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to Article VII, section 2(b) of the state Constitution and RCW 84.52.056.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. (1) To carry out the purpose of this chapter, a county rail district may issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding nonvoter approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to three-eighths of one percent of the value of taxable property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A county rail district may additionally issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, not to exceed an amount equal to one and one-fourth percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, as prescribed in Article VIII, section 6 of the state Constitution, and

to provide for the retirement thereof by excess property tax levies as provided in section 11(2) of this act. The county rail district may submit a single proposition to the voters which, if approved, authorizes both the issuance of the bonds and the bond retirement property tax levies.

(2) General obligation bonds with a maturity in excess of forty years shall not be issued. The governing body of the county rail district shall by resolution determine for each general obligation bond issue the amount, date or dates, terms, conditions, denominations, interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, manner of execution, price, manner of sale, and covenants. The bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. Refunding general obligation bonds may be issued in the same manner as general obligation bonds are issued.

(3) Whenever general obligation bonds are issued to fund specific projects or enterprises that generate revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments, the county rail district which issues the bonds may specifically pledge all or a portion of the revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments to refund the general obligation bonds.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. (1) A county rail district may issue revenue bonds to fund revenue generating facilities which it is authorized to provide or operate. Whenever revenue bonds are to be issued, the governing body of the district shall create or have created a special fund or funds for the sole purpose of paying the principal of and interest on the bonds of each such issue, into which fund or funds the governing body may obligate the district to pay such amounts of the gross revenue of all or any part of the facilities constructed, acquired, improved, repaired, or replaced pursuant to this chapter as the governing body determines.

(2) The governing body of a county rail district issuing revenue bonds shall create a special fund or funds from which, along with any reserves created under RCW 39.44.140, the principal and interest on the revenue bonds shall exclusively be payable. The governing body may obligate the county rail district to set aside and pay into the special fund or funds a fixed proportion or a fixed amount of the revenues from the public improvements, projects, facilities, and all related additions funded by the revenue bonds. This amount or proportion shall be a lien and charge against these revenues, subject only to operating and maintenance expenses. The governing body shall consider the cost of operation and maintenance of the public improvement, project, facility, or additions funded by the revenue bonds and shall not place into the special fund or funds a greater amount or proportion of the revenues than it thinks will be available after maintenance and operation expenses have been paid and after the payment of revenue previously pledged. The governing body may also provide that revenue bonds payable

from the same source or sources of revenue may later be issued on parity with any revenue bonds issued and sold.

(3) Revenue bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be an indebtedness of the county rail district issuing the bonds, and the interest and principal on the bonds shall only be payable from the revenues lawfully pledged to meet the principal and interest requirements and any reserves created pursuant to RCW 39.44.140. The owner of a revenue bond or any interest coupon issued pursuant to this section shall not have any claim against the county rail district arising from the bond or coupon except for payment from the revenues lawfully pledged to meet the principal and interest requirements and any reserves created pursuant to RCW 39.44.140. The substance of the limitations included in this subsection shall be plainly printed, written, or engraved on each bond issued pursuant to this section.

(4) Revenue bonds with a maturity in excess of thirty years shall not be issued. The governing body of the county rail district shall by resolution determine for each revenue bond issue the amount, date, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, manner of execution, manner of sale, callable provisions, if any, and covenants including the refunding of existing revenue bonds. The bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. Refunding revenue bonds may be issued in the same manner as revenue bonds are issued.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 14. A county rail district may exercise the power of eminent domain to obtain property for its authorized purposes in the manner counties exercise the powers of eminent domain.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 15. The rule of strict construction does not apply to this chapter, and this chapter shall be liberally construed to permit the accomplishment of its purposes.

Sec. 16. Section 19, chapter 2, Laws of 1983 and RCW 84.52.052 are each amended to read as follows:

The limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056, and RCW 84.52.043 shall not prevent the levy of additional taxes by any taxing district except school districts in which a larger levy is necessary in order to prevent the impairment of the obligation of contracts. Any county, metropolitan park district, park and recreation service area, park and recreation district, sewer district, water district, solid waste disposal district, county rail district, public hospital district, road district, rural county library district, island library district, intercounty rural library district, fire protection district, cemetery district, city, or town may levy taxes at a rate in excess of the rate specified in RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056 and RCW 84.52.043, or RCW 84.55.010 through 84.55.050, when authorized so to do by the electors of such county, metropolitan park district, park and recreation



service area, park and recreation district, sewer district, water district, solid waste disposal district, county rail district, public hospital district, road district, rural county library district, island library district, intercounty rural library district, fire protection district, cemetery district, city, town, or cultural arts, stadium and convention district in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2(a) of the Constitution of this state, as amended by Amendment 64 and as thereafter amended, at a special or general election to be held in the year in which the levy is made.

A special election may be called and the time therefor fixed by the county legislative authority, or council, board of commissioners, or other governing body of any metropolitan park district, park and recreation service area, park and recreation district, sewer district, water district, solid waste disposal district, county rail district, public hospital district, road district, rural county library district, island library district, intercounty rural library district, fire protection district, cemetery district, city, town, or cultural arts, stadium and convention district, by giving notice thereof by publication in the manner provided by law for giving notices of general elections, at which special election the proposition authorizing such excess levy shall be submitted in such form as to enable the voters favoring the proposition to vote "yes" and those opposed thereto to vote "no".

NEW SECTION. Sec. 17. Sections 8 through 15 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 36 RCW.

Sec. 18. Section 35.50.030, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 1, chapter 91, Laws of 1982 and RCW 35.50.030 are each amended to read as follows:

If on the first day of January in any year, two installments of any local improvement assessment are delinquent, or if the final installment thereof has been delinquent for more than one year, the city or town shall proceed with the foreclosure of the delinquent assessment or delinquent installments thereof by proceedings brought in its own name in the superior court of the county in which the city or town is situate.

The proceedings shall be commenced on or before March 1st of that year or on or before such other date in such year as may be fixed by general ordinance, but not before the city or town treasurer has notified by certified mail the persons whose names appear on the assessment roll as owners of the property charged with the assessments or installments which are delinquent, at the address last known to the treasurer, a notice thirty days before the commencement of the proceedings. If the person whose name appears on the tax rolls of the (~~county treasurer~~) county assessor as owner of the property, or the address shown for the owner, differs from that appearing on the city or town assessment roll, then the treasurer shall also mail a copy of the notice to that person or that address.

The notice shall state the amount due upon each separate lot, tract, or parcel of land and the date after which the proceedings will be commenced.

The city or town treasurer shall file with the clerk of the superior court at the time of commencement of the foreclosure proceeding the affidavit of the person who mailed the notices. This affidavit shall be conclusive proof of compliance with the requirements of this section.

Sec. 19. Section 35.50.230, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 3, chapter 91, Laws of 1982 and RCW 35.50.230 are each amended to read as follows:

~~((In foreclosing local improvement assessment liens, all or any of the lots, tracts, or parcels of land or other property included in the assessment for one local improvement district or one utility local improvement district may be proceeded against in the same action.))~~ In foreclosing local improvement assessment liens, it is not necessary to bring a separate suit for each of the lots, tracts, or parcels of land or other property or for each separate local improvement district or utility local improvement district. All or any of the lots, tracts, or parcels of land or other property upon which local improvement assessments are delinquent under any and all local improvement assessment rolls in the city or town may be proceeded against in the same action. For all lots, tracts, or parcels which contain a residential structure with an assessed value of at least two thousand dollars, all persons owning or claiming to own ((or having or claiming to have any interest in or lien upon the lots, tracts, or parcels involved in the action and all persons unknown who may have an interest or claim of interest therein)) the property shall be made defendants thereto. For all other lots, tracts, or parcels, the persons whose names appear on the assessment roll and property tax rolls as owners of the property charged with the assessments or taxes shall be made defendants thereto.

Sec. 20. Section 35.50.250, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 5, chapter 91, Laws of 1982 and RCW 35.50.250 are each amended to read as follows:

~~In foreclosing local improvement assessments, ((summons and the service thereof shall be governed by the statutes governing the foreclosure of mortgages on real property))~~ if the lot, tract, or parcel contains a residential structure with an assessed value of at least two thousand dollars, the summons shall be served upon the defendants in the manner required by RCW 4.28.080. For all other lots, tracts, or parcels the summons shall be served by either personal service on the defendants or by certified and regular mail.

Sec. 21. Section 35.50.260, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 7, chapter 91, Laws of 1982 and RCW 35.50.260 are each amended to read as follows:

In foreclosing local improvement assessments the action shall be tried to the court without a jury. If the parties interested in any particular lot, tract, or parcel default, the court may enter judgment of foreclosure and sale as to such parties and lots, tracts, or parcels and the action may proceed as to the

remaining defendants and lots, tracts, or parcels. Judgment and order of sale may be entered as to any one or more separate lots, tracts, or parcels involved in the action and the court shall retain jurisdiction to others.

The judgment shall specify separately the amount of the installments with interest, penalty, and all reasonable costs, including the title searches, chargeable to each lot, tract, or parcel. The judgment shall have the effect of a separate judgment as to each lot, tract, or parcel described in the judgment, and any appeal shall not invalidate or delay the judgment except as to the property concerning which the appeal is taken. In the judgment the court shall order the lots, tracts, or parcels therein described sold((:)) by the city or town treasurer or by the county sheriff and an order of sale shall issue pursuant thereto for the enforcement of the judgment.

In all other respects, the trial, judgment (~~and order of sale~~), and appeals to the supreme court or the court of appeals shall be governed by the statutes governing the foreclosure of mortgages on real property.

Prior to the sale of the property, if the property is shown on the property tax rolls under unknown owner or if the property contains a residential structure having an assessed value of two thousand dollars or more, the treasurer shall order or conduct a title search of the property to determine the record title holders and all persons claiming a mortgage, deed of trust, or mechanic's, laborer's, materialmen's, or vendor's lien on the property.

At least thirty days prior to the sale of the property, a copy of the notice of sale shall be mailed by certified and regular mail to all defendants in the foreclosure action as to that parcel, lot, or tract and, if the owner is unknown or the property contains a residential structure having an assessed value of two thousand dollars or more, a copy of the notice of sale shall be mailed by regular and certified mail to any additional record title holders and persons claiming a mortgage, deed of trust, or mechanic's, laborer's, materialmen's, or vendor's lien on the property.

In all other respects the procedure for sale shall be conducted in the same manner as property tax sales described in RCW 84.64.080.

Sec. 22. Section 35.50.270, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 8, chapter 91, Laws of 1982 and RCW 35.50.270 are each amended to read as follows:

In foreclosing local improvement assessments, all sales shall be subject to the right of redemption within two years from the date of sale. (~~In all other respects, the sale, redemption and issuance of deed shall be governed by the statutes governing the foreclosure of mortgages on real property and the terms "judgment debtor" and "successor in interest" as used in such statutes shall be held to include an owner or a vendee.~~)

NEW SECTION. Sec. 23. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or

the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Passed the House April 23, 1983.

Passed the Senate April 18, 1983.

Approved by the Governor May 17, 1983.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 17, 1983.

## CHAPTER 304

[Substitute House Bill No. 790]

### COUNCIL FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION—TRANSFER OF CREDIT POLICY AND AGREEMENT

AN ACT Relating to higher education; and adding new sections to chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and to chapter 28B.80 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. There is added to chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and to chapter 28B.80 RCW a new section to read as follows:

The council shall, in cooperation with the state institutions of higher education and the state board for community college education, establish and maintain a state-wide transfer of credit policy and agreement. The policy and agreement shall, where feasible, include course and program descriptions consistent with state-wide interinstitutional guidelines. The institutions of higher education shall provide support and staff resources as necessary to assist in developing and maintaining this policy and agreement. The state-wide transfer of credit policy and agreement shall be effective beginning with the 1985-86 academic year. The council shall report on developments toward that objective at both the 1984 and 1985 regular sessions of the legislature.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and to chapter 28B.80 RCW a new section to read as follows:

The state-wide transfer of credit policy and agreement shall be designed to facilitate the transfer of students and the evaluation of transcripts, to better serve persons seeking information about courses and programs, to aid in academic planning, and to improve the review and evaluation of academic programs in the state institutions of higher education. The state-wide transfer of credit policy and agreement shall not require nor encourage the standardization of course content and shall not prescribe course content or the credit value assigned by any institution to the course.

Passed the House April 20, 1983.

Passed the Senate April 15, 1983.

Approved by the Governor May 17, 1983.

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