
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5362

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators King and Liias; by request of Utilities & Transportation Commission)

1 AN ACT Relating to the regulation of passenger charter and
2 excursion carriers; amending RCW 81.70.020, 81.70.030, 81.70.220,
3 81.70.260, 81.70.320, 81.70.350, and 81.70.360; adding new sections
4 to chapter 81.70 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 81.70.020 and 2007 c 234 s 55 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions and
9 general provisions in this section govern the construction of this
10 chapter:

11 (1) "Commission" means the Washington utilities and
12 transportation commission;

13 (2) "Person or persons" means an individual, a corporation,
14 association, joint stock association, and partnership, their lessees,
15 trustees, or receivers;

16 (3) "Public highway" includes every public street, road, or
17 highway in this state;

18 (4) "Motor vehicle" means every self-propelled vehicle with
19 seating capacity for seven or more persons, excluding the driver;

20 (5) Subject to the exclusions of RCW 81.70.030, "charter party
21 carrier" means every person engaged in the transportation over any

1 public highways in this state of a group of persons, who, pursuant to
2 a common purpose and under a single contract, acquire the use of a
3 motor vehicle to travel together as a group to a specified
4 destination or for a particular itinerary, either agreed upon in
5 advance or modified by the chartered group after leaving the place of
6 origin;

7 (6) Subject to the exclusion of RCW 81.70.030, "excursion service
8 carrier" means every person engaged in the transportation of persons
9 for compensation over any public highway in this state from points of
10 origin within the incorporated limits of any city or town or area, to
11 any other location within the state of Washington and returning to
12 that origin. The service must not pick up or drop off passengers
13 after leaving and before returning to the area of origin. The
14 excursions may be regularly scheduled. Compensation for the
15 transportation offered or afforded must be computed, charged, or
16 assessed by the excursion service company on an individual fare
17 basis;

18 (7) "Customer" means a person, corporation, or other entity that
19 prearranges for transportation services with a charter party carrier
20 or purchases a ticket for transportation services aboard an excursion
21 service carrier;

22 (8) "Double-decker bus" means a motor vehicle with more than one
23 passenger deck. A person using a double-decker bus must comply with
24 the maximum height vehicle requirements contained in RCW 46.44.020;

25 (9) Subject to the exclusions of RCW 81.70.030, "party bus" means
26 any motor vehicle whose interior enables passengers to stand and
27 circulate throughout the vehicle because seating is placed around the
28 perimeter of the bus or is nonexistent and in which food, beverages,
29 or entertainment may be provided. A motor vehicle configured in the
30 traditional manner of forward-facing seating with a center aisle is
31 not a party bus. A person engaged in the transportation of persons by
32 party bus over any public highway in this state is considered
33 engaging in the business of a charter party carrier or excursion
34 service carrier;

35 (10) "Permittee" means a holder of an appropriate special permit
36 issued under chapter 66.20 RCW who is twenty-one years of age or
37 older and who is responsible for compliance with the requirements of
38 section 8 of this act and chapter 66.20 RCW during the provision of
39 transportation services.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 81.70.030 and 2007 c 234 s 56 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 This chapter does not apply to:

4 (1) ~~((Persons operating motor vehicles wholly within the limits~~
5 ~~of incorporated cities;~~

6 ~~(2))~~ Persons or their lessees, receivers, or trustees insofar as
7 they own, control, operate, or manage taxicabs, hotel buses, or
8 school buses, when operated as such;

9 ~~((3))~~ (2) Passenger vehicles carrying passengers on a
10 noncommercial enterprise basis; or

11 ~~((4))~~ (3) Limousine charter party carriers of passengers under
12 chapter 46.72A RCW.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 81.70.220 and 2009 c 557 s 4 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) No person may engage in the business of a charter party
16 carrier or excursion service carrier of ~~((persons))~~ passengers over
17 any public highway without first having obtained a certificate from
18 the commission to do so or having registered as an interstate
19 carrier. For the purposes of this section, "engage in the business of
20 a charter party carrier or excursion service carrier" includes
21 advertising or soliciting, offering, or entering into an agreement to
22 provide such service. Each advertisement reproduced, broadcast, or
23 displayed via a particular medium constitutes a separate violation
24 under this chapter.

25 (2) Any person who engages in the business of a charter party
26 carrier or excursion service carrier in violation of subsection (1)
27 of this section is subject to a penalty of up to five thousand
28 dollars per violation.

29 (3) An auto transportation company carrying passengers for
30 compensation over any public highway in this state between fixed
31 termini or over a regular route that is not required to hold an auto
32 transportation certificate because of a commission finding under RCW
33 81.68.015 must obtain a certificate under this chapter.

34 **Sec. 4.** RCW 81.70.260 and 1989 c 163 s 9 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 (1) After the cancellation or revocation of a certificate or
37 interstate registration or during the period of its suspension, it is
38 unlawful for a charter party carrier or excursion service carrier of

1 passengers to conduct any operations as such a carrier. For the
2 purposes of this section, "conduct any operations" includes
3 advertising or soliciting, offering, or entering into an agreement to
4 provide such service. Each advertisement reproduced, broadcast, or
5 displayed via a particular medium constitutes a separate violation
6 under this chapter.

7 (2) Any person who conducts operations as a charter party carrier
8 or excursion service carrier of passengers in violation of subsection
9 (1) of this section is subject to a penalty of up to five thousand
10 dollars per violation.

11 **Sec. 5.** RCW 81.70.320 and 2007 c 234 s 61 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) An application for a certificate, amendment of a certificate,
14 or transfer of a certificate must be accompanied by a filing fee the
15 commission may prescribe by rule. The fee must not exceed two hundred
16 dollars.

17 (2) All fees paid to the commission under this chapter must be
18 deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the public service
19 revolving fund.

20 (3) It is the intent of the legislature that all fees collected
21 under this chapter must reasonably approximate the cost of
22 supervising and regulating charter party carriers and excursion
23 service carriers subject thereto, and to that end the commission may
24 decrease the schedule of fees provided for in RCW 81.70.350 by
25 general order entered before (~~November~~) March 1st of any year in
26 which the commission determines that the moneys, then in the charter
27 party carrier and excursion service carrier account of the public
28 service revolving fund, and the fees currently owed will exceed the
29 reasonable cost of supervising and regulating such carriers during
30 the succeeding calendar year. Whenever the cost accounting records of
31 the commission indicate that the schedule of fees previously reduced
32 should be increased, the increase, not to exceed the schedule set
33 forth in this chapter, may be effected by a similar general order
34 entered before (~~November~~) March 1st of any calendar year.

35 **Sec. 6.** RCW 81.70.350 and 1994 c 83 s 3 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 (1) The commission shall collect from each charter party carrier
38 and excursion service carrier holding a certificate issued pursuant

1 to this chapter and from each interstate or foreign carrier subject
2 to this chapter an annual regulatory fee, to be established by the
3 commission but which in total shall not exceed the cost of
4 supervising and regulating such carriers, for each bus used by such
5 carrier.

6 (2) ~~((All))~~ The fee~~((s))~~ prescribed ~~((by))~~ under this section
7 ~~((shall be))~~ is due and payable on or before ~~((December 31))~~ May 1st
8 of each year, to cover operations during the ~~((ensuing))~~ calendar
9 year ~~((beginning February 1))~~ in which the fee is paid.

10 (3) Any payment of the fee imposed by this section made after its
11 due date shall include a late fee of two percent of the amount due.
12 Delinquent fees shall accrue interest at the rate of one percent per
13 month.

14 **Sec. 7.** RCW 81.70.360 and 1984 c 166 s 5 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 No excursion service company may operate for the transportation
17 of persons for compensation without first having obtained from the
18 commission under the provisions of this chapter a certificate to do
19 so. For the purposes of this section, "operate for the transportation
20 of persons for compensation" includes advertising or soliciting,
21 offering, or entering into an agreement to provide such service.

22 A certificate shall be issued to any qualified applicant
23 therefor, authorizing the whole or any part of the operations covered
24 by the application, if it is found that the applicant is fit,
25 willing, and able to properly perform the services proposed and
26 conform to the provisions of this chapter and the rules of the
27 commission adopted under this chapter, and that such operations will
28 be consistent with the public interest. ~~((However, a certificate~~
29 ~~shall be granted when it appears to the satisfaction of the~~
30 ~~commission that the person, firm, or corporation was actually~~
31 ~~operating in good faith that type of service for which the~~
32 ~~certificate was sought on January 15, 1983.)) Any right, privilege,
33 or certificate held, owned, or obtained by an excursion service
34 company may be sold, assigned, leased, transferred, or inherited as
35 other property only upon authorization by the commission. For good
36 cause shown the commission may refuse to issue the certificate, or
37 issue it for the partial exercise only of the privilege sought, and
38 may attach to the exercise of the rights granted by the certificate~~

1 such terms and conditions as, in its judgment, the public interest
2 may require.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 81.70
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) A charter party carrier or excursion service carrier may not
6 provide alcoholic beverages to a customer.

7 (2) An excursion service carrier must prohibit the consumption of
8 alcohol aboard the vehicle.

9 (3) Unless the charter party carrier prohibits the consumption of
10 alcohol aboard the vehicle, at the time transportation service using
11 or advertised as a party bus is purchased or the contract of carriage
12 is made, the charter party carrier must determine whether alcoholic
13 beverages will be served or consumed in the passenger compartment of
14 the vehicle. If alcoholic beverages will be served or consumed in the
15 passenger compartment, the carrier must, prior to commencing
16 transportation services:

17 (a) Confirm that a permittee is present and require the permittee
18 to be present at all times during the transportation service;

19 (b) Obtain a copy of the customer's appropriate special permit
20 required under RCW 66.20.010 and retain a copy of the permit with the
21 contract of carriage;

22 (c) Require the permittee to check the identification of all
23 passengers; and

24 (d) Verify that the permittee knowingly assumes responsibility
25 for compliance with the terms of the special permit, if a permit is
26 required, including compliance with RCW 66.44.270 concerning the
27 prohibition against furnishing liquor to minors.

28 (4) If the requirements of subsection (3) of this section are not
29 fulfilled before transportation services are scheduled to begin, the
30 carrier must remove all alcoholic beverages and lock them in the
31 vehicle trunk or other locked compartment or cancel the trip.

32 (5) If at any time the charter party carrier or excursion service
33 carrier learns that (a) alcoholic beverages will be or are being
34 served or consumed in the passenger compartment and a permittee is
35 not present, or (b) any person under twenty-one years of age is
36 consuming or has consumed alcoholic beverages in the passenger
37 compartment, the carrier must remove all alcoholic beverages and lock
38 them in the vehicle trunk or other locked compartment. The charter
39 party carrier or excursion service carrier may terminate the

1 transportation service and return the passengers to the place of
2 origin.

3 (6) If at any time the charter party carrier or excursion service
4 carrier believes that conditions aboard the vehicle are unsafe, the
5 charter party carrier or excursion service carrier may cancel the
6 trip and return the passengers to the place of origin.

7 (7) This section does not limit the right of a charter party
8 carrier to prohibit the consumption of alcohol aboard the vehicle.

9 (8) This section does not limit the right of a permittee to seek
10 indemnity from any person, corporation, or other entity other than
11 the charter party carrier.

12 (9) This section does not relieve a passenger of legal
13 responsibility for his or her own conduct or the permittee of legal
14 responsibility for compliance with Title 66 RCW.

15 (10) Any charter party carrier or excursion service carrier in
16 violation of this section is subject to a penalty of up to five
17 thousand dollars per violation.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 81.70
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 (1) A charter party carrier or excursion service carrier may not
21 knowingly allow any passenger to smoke aboard a motor vehicle
22 regulated under this chapter.

23 (2) For the purposes of this section, "smoke" has the same
24 meaning as defined in RCW 70.160.020.

--- END ---