



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— **OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON** —

May 20, 2025

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Esteemed Colleagues:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Sections 108(4), 108(6), 205(1), 208(5), 208(11), 208(19), 208(22), and 1009 lines 23-24, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5161 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to transportation fiscal matters."

Section 108(4), pages 5-7, Department of Commerce, Electric Vehicle Charger Property Crime

This section directs the Interagency Electric Vehicle Coordinating Council, co-led by the Department of Commerce and Department of Transportation, to address electric vehicle charger infrastructure property crime. The required work is unfunded and cannot be implemented appropriately with existing resources. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 108 (4). However, I recognize that property crimes to electric vehicle chargers are increasing, and therefore, I am directing the departments of Commerce and Transportation to ensure that the council considers property crimes to charging infrastructure and how this issue may be addressed in its ongoing work.

Section 108(6), page 7, Department of Commerce, Workgroup on Tax Increment Financing

This section directs the Department of Commerce to convene a workgroup on tax increment financing and report on its findings. The required work is not funded in the budget and cannot be implemented appropriately with existing resources. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 108(6).

Section 205(1), page 19, Transportation Commission, Location of Commission Meetings

Section 205(1) requires the Washington State Transportation Commission to conduct its meetings only in Olympia or virtually. This section conflicts with existing statutory obligations and would impede critical regional and intergovernmental coordination efforts. For these reasons, I am vetoing Section 205(1).

Section 208(5), page 30, Department of Licensing, Safe Driving Courses

This section directs the Department of Licensing to work with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to develop recommendations on requiring safe driving courses for certain drivers. The required work is unfunded and cannot be implemented appropriately with existing resources. In addition, I have signed several bills this year concerning safe driving course requirements, and we can determine if further study of this issue is necessary after these bills are implemented. For these reasons, I am vetoing Section 208(5).

Section 208(11), page 32, Department of Licensing, Senate Bill 5234, Snowmobile Fees

This section provides funding to the Department of Licensing to implement Senate Bill 5234, which did not pass the Legislature. Because the funding has lapsed, I am vetoing Section 208(11).

Section 208(19), page 33, Department of Licensing, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1113, Misdemeanor Dismissal

This section provides funding to the Department of Licensing to implement Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1113, which did not pass the Legislature. Because the funding has lapsed, I am vetoing Section 208(19).

Section 208(22), page 34, Department of Licensing, Digital Licenses on Mobile Phones

This section provides funding for the Department of Licensing to develop an implementation plan for digital driver's licenses on mobile phones. This funding is not necessary, as the needed information to implement digital driver's licenses in Washington has already been made available in previous reports produced by the department. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 208(22).

Section 1009, page 267, lines 23-24, Department of Transportation – Local Programs – Program Z – Capital – Move Ahead WA Account-State Appropriation

The amendments in this section would reduce appropriation authority in the 2023-25 biennium. The Department of Transportation has already made expenditures for which the existing appropriation authority is required. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 1009, page 267, lines 23-24. However, I am directing the Office of Financial Management, in consultation with the department, to place any unexpended amount of the appropriation in unallotted status.

For these reasons I have vetoed Sections 108(4), 108(6), 205(1), 208(5), 208(11), 208(19), 208(22), and 1009 lines 23-24 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5161.

With the exception of Sections 108(4), 108(6), 205(1), 208(5), 208(11), 208(19), 208(22), and 1009 lines 23-24, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5161 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Ferguson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Ferguson
Governor