

INITIATIVE 785

I, Sam Reed, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 785 to the People is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1 AN ACT Relating to the equitable distribution of state
2 transportation funds; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This initiative measure directs the state to
5 provide for a more equitable system of state transportation funding
6 which ensures that each voter's taxes and fees come back to fix the
7 transportation problems they experience every day. The public's
8 support for the state transportation system has declined in recent
9 years due to the feeling that their taxes go to fund distant projects
10 forced by powerful special interests, while their own local needs go
11 unaddressed. The citizens of Washington would benefit if the state
12 were to develop a system that guarantees that each person's tax dollars
13 will return to solve problems in their local area.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The following taxes and fees shall be
15 reserved strictly for the construction, maintenance, and operation of
16 the roads, bridges, and mass transit systems in the county in which it
17 was collected, except as specifically provided for in section 5 of this
18 act:

1 (1) Motor vehicle fuel taxes;
2 (2) Vehicle licensing fees; and
3 (3) Any other tax approved by the voters for funding of local
4 transportation, except those qualifying under section 4 of this act.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Any fees such as fares and tolls collected
6 for the limited use of a specific transportation resource shall be
7 retained and spent exclusively on the construction, maintenance, and
8 operation of that resource from which it was collected.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Any taxes approved by the voters for the
10 funding of a specific transportation resource shall be used solely for
11 the construction, maintenance, and operation of that resource. For
12 example, if the voters approve funding for construction of a new
13 bridge, the funding cannot be redirected to other roads or transit
14 systems.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The distribution of transportation funds
16 allocated to each county under this measure may only be modified
17 through the following means:

18 (1) The express vote of the people, or county council in that
19 county, or both; or

20 (2) A sixty-six percent super-majority vote of the state
21 legislature to appropriate funds for one-time, specifically identified
22 budget items.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The provisions of this act are to be
24 liberally construed to effectuate the policies and purposes of this
25 act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If any provision of this act or its
27 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
28 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
29 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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