

S.B. 197

Transportation Funding and Governance Amendments

Senate Amendments

Amendment 1

February 20, 2026 12:45 PM

Senator **Wayne A. Harper** proposes the following amendments:

1. *Line 277 through 283:*

- 277 (i) cooperate with and enter into an agreement with the state or an agency of the state or
278 otherwise contract to finance to establish transit facilities and equipment or to study
279 or plan transit facilities;
280 (j) subject to Subsection {~~17B-2a-808.1(4)~~} 17B-2a-811.1(8), issue bonds as provided in and
subject to
281 Chapter 1, Part 11, Special District Bonds, to carry out the purposes of the district;
282 (k) from bond proceeds or any other available funds, reimburse the state or an agency of
283 the state for an advance or contribution from the state or state agency;

2. *Line 426 through 431:*

- 426 and
427 (C) the governor shall designate two appointees as serving an initial term for two
428 years, and one appointee as serving an initial term of five years.
(d) Each transit commissioner:
(i) serves and represents the whole of the large public transit district; and
(ii) does not represent a specific geographic portion of the large public transit district.
429 (4) (a) If a vacancy occurs, the nomination and appointment procedures to replace the
430 individual shall occur in the same manner described in Subsection (2) as for the
431 transit commissioner creating the vacancy.

3. *Line 445 through 451:*

- 445 (i) public transit and mobility;
446 (ii) public finance and budgeting;
447 (iii) community development and engagement;
448 (iv) law, public policy, or public administration; or
449 (v) business management.
450 (b) An individual who holds an elected office is ineligible for nomination, appointment,
451 or service on the transit commission.

4. *Line 500 through 506:*

- 500 (iii) supply copies of the report under Subsection (2)(g)(ii) to the general public upon

501 request in a quantity that the board considers appropriate;
502 (h) report at least annually to the Transportation Commission created in Section 72-1-301
503 the district's short-term and **strategic** long-range ~~{public}~~ transit plans, including the transit
504 portions of applicable regional transportation plans adopted by a metropolitan
505 planning organization established under 23 U.S.C. Sec. 134;
506 (i) direct the internal auditor appointed under Section 17B-2a-810 to conduct audits that

5. *Line 564 through 569:*

564 (a) approve an annual budget, which shall emphasize fiscal responsibility, increasing
565 ridership, and maintaining a state of good repair;
566 (b) approve any interlocal agreement with a local jurisdiction;
567 (c) approve a strategic **long-range transit** plan for development and operations proposed by the
568 executive
568 director in accordance with Subsection 17B-2a-811.1(5)(b);
569 (d) vote on adoption of transit commission ordinances and bylaws; and

6. *Line 570 through 579:*

570 (e) review and recommend a proposal from the executive director for the issuance of a
571 bond.
572 (4) The transit commission shall:
(a) in consultation with local stakeholders, work to establish and enhance transit
infrastructure to provide cohesive and efficient public transit services throughout the service
area of the large public transit district;
573 {(a)} (b) cause an annual audit of all public transit district books and accounts to be made by
574 an independent certified public accountant;
575 {(b)} (c) (i) as soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, submit to each **county,**
municipality, council
576 of governments, and metropolitan planning organization within the public transit
577 district, and make available upon request, a financial report showing:
578 (A) the result of the transit district operations during the preceding fiscal year;
579 (B) an accounting of the expenditures of all local sales and use tax revenues

7. *Line 582 through 589:*

582 (C) the transit district's financial status on the final day of the fiscal year; and
583 (D) the transit district's progress and efforts to improve the transit district's fiscal
584 outlook relative to the previous fiscal year; and
585 (ii) supply copies of the report under Subsection ~~{(4)(b)(i)}~~ **(4)(c)(i)** to the general public upon

586 request;
 587 {(e)} (d) (i) direct the internal auditor appointed under Section 17B-2a-810 to conduct
 588 audits that the transit commission determines to be the most critical to the success
 589 of the organization;

8. *Line 590 through 599:*

590 (ii) if requested by the executive director, direct the internal auditor appointed under
 591 Section 17B-2a-810 to conduct an audit of an internal issue of the large public
 592 transit district; and
 593 (iii) hear audit reports for audits conducted in accordance with this Subsection {~~(4)(e)~~ (4)(d);
 594 {and}
 595 {~~(d)~~ (e) at least annually, engage with the safety and security team of the large public transit
 596 district to ensure coordination with local municipalities and counties {;} ;
(f) at least annually, engage with the relevant metropolitan planning organizations and
other stakeholders;
(g) at least annually, for the commissioners nominated by the councils of government,
engage with the councils of government about community and local needs, investments, and
services;
(h) engage with elected officials or staff from municipalities and counties within the large
public transit district; and
(i) consult with local officials and stakeholders:
(i) to review routes, service changes, and service improvements; and
(ii) regarding the approvals described in Subsections (3)(a) through (c).
 597 (5) A transit commission of a large public transit district may:
 598 (a) approve and pass ordinances, resolutions, and orders that are:
 599 (i) not repugnant to the United States Constitution, the Utah Constitution, or the

9. *Line 720 through 735:*

720 (h) supervises and has supervisory authority over all employees of the large public
 721 transit district.
 722 (5) The executive director shall:
 723 {(a) as described in Subsection (6), create and present the budget of the large public }
 724 {transit district to the transit commission for approval;}
 725 {(b) (i) at least as frequently as every four years, in consultation with the transit }
 726 {commission, metropolitan planning organizations, operations specialists of the }
 727 {large public transit district, and other relevant stakeholders, develop a strategic }
 728 {plan for the district that aligns with relevant transportation and public transit }

729 { ~~plans, including corresponding proposed projects on time horizons of five, 10, and~~ }
730 { ~~20 years; and~~ }
731 { ~~(ii) present the strategic plan described in Subsection (5)(b)(i) to the transit~~ }
732 { ~~commission for approval;~~ }

(a) (i) as described in Subsection (6), create and present the budget of the large public transit district to the transit commission for approval; and

(ii) provide notice of the proposed budget hearing and a copy of the proposed budget to the counties and municipalities within the large public transit district no later than 30 days before the hearing;

(b) (i) at least as frequently as every four years, in consultation with the transit commission and relevant metropolitan planning organizations, develop a strategic long-range transit plan for the district that aligns with relevant transportation and public transit plans on time horizons of five, 10, and 20 years;

(ii) provide the proposed strategic long-range transit plan described in Subsection (5)(b)(i) to councils of government, counties, municipalities and other relevant stakeholders for review and input; and

(iii) after considering input received under Subsection (5)(b)(ii), present the proposed strategic long-range transit plan described in Subsection (5)(b)(i) to the transit commission for approval;

733 (c) (i) propose for transit commission approval any ordinances or bylaws with effect
734 outside the transit district organization; and

735 (ii) develop and implement internal transit district policies;

10. *Line 752 through 758:*

752 transit-oriented development;

753 (j) create and pursue funding opportunities for transit capital and service initiatives to
754 meet anticipated growth within the public transit district and in accordance with the
755 strategic **long-range transit** plan;

756 (k) regulate each transit facility that the public transit district owns and operates,
757 including:

758 (i) fix rates, rentals, charges and any classifications of rates, rentals, and charges;

11. *Line 769 through 778:*

769 custodian's services from the interest earnings of the investment fund for which the
770 custodian is appointed;

771 (n) ensure that the policies established by the public transit district meet state and federal
772 regulatory requirements and federal grantee eligibility; **and**

773 (o) coordinate with political subdivisions within the large public transit district and the
774 department to coordinate public transit services provided by the large public transit
775 district with pilot services related to public transit innovation grants { } ; and
(p) require crime insurance for district officers and employees charged with the handling
of district funds.
776 (6) (a) The executive director shall prepare and submit to the transit commission an
777 annual operating budget no later than 60 days before the beginning of each fiscal year.
778 (b) The budget shall include:

12. *Line 815 through 821:*

815 forma financial statement.
816 (ii) The ten-year budget projection and pro forma shall include:
817 (A) projected revenues by source, including farebox revenue, sales tax receipts,
818 federal grants, state contributions, **contributions from local governments**, and other operating
income;
819 (B) projected operating and capital expenditures, including personnel costs, fleet
820 maintenance and replacement, fuel and energy costs, facilities maintenance,
821 and debt service;

13. *Line 867 through 875:*

867 was collected within each respective county, city, or town and allocated to the
868 large public transit district as provided in this part;
869 (ii) how much revenue described in Subsection (11)(a)(i) was allocated to provide
870 public transit services utilized by residents of each **county**, city, and town; { **and** }
871 (iii) how the revenue described in Subsection (11)(a)(i) was spent to provide public
872 transit services utilized by residents of each respective **county**, city, and town { } ; and
(iv) the ridership of all transit services.
873 (b) After providing the report described in Subsection (11)(a), the executive director
874 shall provide the report to each county, city, and town within the boundary of the
875 large public transit district.

14. *Line 878:*

878 capital development projects administered by the Department of Transportation.
879 (12) The executive director shall report at least annually to the Transportation Commission
880 created in Section 72-1-301, including:
881 (a) the district's short-term and { **long-range public transit plans** } **strategic long-range transit**
plans, including the portions of

882 applicable regional transportation plans adopted by a metropolitan planning
883 organization established under 23 U.S.C. Sec. 134; and

884 (b) any fixed guideway capital development projects that the executive director would
885 like the Transportation Commission to consider.

(13) The executive director or the executive director's designee shall meet and engage:
(a) with elected officials or staff from the relevant metropolitan planning organizations,
councils of government, counties, and municipalities within the large public transit district;
and

(b) at least annually with elected officials or staff from any county or municipality that
provides direct financial contributions for transit district operations, including expanded
service or other similar proposals.