

[Service Date August 12, 2015]



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • www.utc.wa.gov

August 12, 2015

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS

(By Friday, September 11, 2015)

Re: Rulemaking to Consider Amending Chapter 480-30 WAC, Relating to Charter Bus Companies, Docket TE-151080

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

The 2015 Legislature passed legislation and the Governor signed into law SSB 5362 requiring RCW 81.70 to include transportation of persons by party bus over any public highway within the state as a charter party carrier. The legislation also imposed requirements specific to the operation of a party bus.

On June 17, 2015, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to determine if a rulemaking is necessary for the sole purpose of implementing SSB 5362.

The Commission sought written comments from interested persons related to the provisions of SSB 5362, including whether and how those provisions should be incorporated into Commission rules. The Commission did not receive any comments.

The Commission has determined rules are necessary. The rulemaking will affect Chapter 480-30 WAC, relating to charter bus companies. The rulemaking will be limited to the provisions of SSB 5362, including:

- Define “party bus”
- Remove the current exemption for buses operating within a single city
- Regulate alcohol served or consumed on party buses
- Prohibit smoking on charter buses
- Change the due date for charter bus regulatory fees
- Define charter party services to include certain advertising activities
- Allow a penalty up to \$5,000 for operating without a permit

Commission staff has developed draft rules for review and comment by interested persons. The draft rules are available for inspection on the Commission's website at www.utc.wa.gov/151080. If you are unable to access the Commission's web page and would like a copy of the draft rules mailed to you, please contact the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Commission invites comments on the draft rules. Written comments on the draft rules must be filed with the Commission no later than **5:00 p.m., Friday, September 11, 2015**. The Commission requests that comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, for ease of providing comments, to reduce the need for paper copies, and to facilitate quotations from the comments. Comments should be in .pdf Adobe Acrobat or in Word 97 or later version. Comments may be submitted via the Commission's Web portal at www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing or by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at records@wutc.wa.gov. Alternatively, comments may be submitted by mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a flash drive, DVD, or CD including the filed document(s). Comment submissions should include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (TE-151080).
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.
- Detailed rationale, data and documentation to support any suggested revisions.

The Commission will post on its website all comments that are provided in electronic format. The website is located at the following URL address: www.utc.wa.gov/151080.

If you have questions regarding this rulemaking, you may contact staff lead, Suzanne Stillwell, at (360) 664-1224 or by email at sstillwe@utc.wa.gov.

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary