



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

June 19, 2015

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By Monday, July 20, 2015)

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

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

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, passed and signed into law in the 2015 legislative session. The potential rulemaking would affect WAC Chapter 480-30, relating to charter bus companies. The rulemaking would 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

The Commission filed the CR-101 under Docket TE-151080.

The CR-101, as filed with the Code Reviser, is 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 CR-101 mailed to you, please contact the Records Center at (360) 664-1234.

Under RCW 81.70, the Commission regulates passenger charter bus carriers operating within Washington state for public safety. The 2015 Legislature passed legislation (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 Commission is seeking written comments from interested persons related to the provisions of SSB 5362, including whether and how those provisions should be incorporated into Commission rules.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments on the CR-101 inquiry must be filed with the Commission no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, July 20, 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. You may submit comments 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@utc.wa.gov. Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (Docket TE-151080)
- The commenting party's name
- The title and date of the comment or comments

An alternative method for submitting comments is mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a flash drive, DVD, or compact disk including the filed document(s). Parties must furnish electronic copies in MS Word 6.0 (or later) supplemented by a separate file in .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) format. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on its website all comments that are provided in electronic format. The website is located at www.utc.wa.gov/151080.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically, the Commission will accept a paper document. If you have questions regarding this rulemaking, you may contact the staff lead, Suzanne Stillwell, at (360) 664-1224, or by email at sstillwe@utc.wa.gov.

Stakeholders will have further opportunity for comment. Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's website as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking you may:

- Call the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234
- Email the Commission at records@utc.wa.gov
- Mail written comments to the address below

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket TE-151080 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. The Commission's mailing address is:

Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

NOTICE

If you do not want to comment now, but do want to receive future information about this rulemaking, please notify the Executive Director and Secretary in one of the ways described above and ask to be included on the mailing list for Docket TE-151080. If you do not do this, you might not receive further information about this rulemaking.

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary