Proposed Substitute House Bill 1956 (H-2443.2)

By Representative Clibborn

Original bill:
- Authorizes the issuance of up to $3.2 billion in general obligation bonds.

Substitute bill compared to original bill:
- Increases the authorized bond amount to $3.6 billion.
- Removes motor vehicle excise tax proceeds from the revenue sources pledged to pay for the bonds.

Committee: House Transportation Committee

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Office of Program Research
BILL REQ. #: H-2443.2/13 2nd draft

ATTY/TPYST: BP:bbp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Authorizing bonds for transportation funding.
AN ACT Relating to authorizing bonds for transportation funding; adding new sections to chapter 47.10 RCW; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. In order to provide funds necessary for the location, design, right-of-way, and construction of selected projects or improvements that are identified as 2013 connecting Washington projects or improvements in the omnibus transportation appropriations act, there shall be issued and sold upon the request of the department of transportation a total of three billion six hundred million dollars of general obligation bonds of the state of Washington.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Upon the request of the department of transportation, as appropriate, the state finance committee shall supervise and provide for the issuance, sale, and retirement of the bonds in this act in accordance with chapter 39.42 RCW. Bonds authorized by this act shall be sold in the manner, at time or times, in amounts, and at the price as the state finance committee shall
determine. No bonds may be offered for sale without prior legislative appropriation of the net proceeds of the sale of the bonds.

The state finance committee shall consider the issuance of short-term obligations in lieu of long-term obligations for the purposes of more favorable interest rates, lower total interest costs, and increased marketability and for the purpose of retiring the bonds during the life of the project for which they were issued.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by section 1 of this act shall be deposited in the connecting Washington account in the motor vehicle fund. The proceeds shall be available only for the purposes enumerated in section 1 of this act, for the payment of bond anticipation notes, if any, and for the payment of bond issuance costs, including the costs of underwriting.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Bonds issued under the authority of sections 1 through 6 of this act shall distinctly state that they are a general obligation of the state of Washington, shall pledge the full faith and credit of the state to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon, and shall contain an unconditional promise to pay such principal and interest as the same shall become due. The principal and interest on the bonds shall be first payable in the manner provided in sections 1 through 6 of this act from the proceeds of the state excise taxes on motor vehicle and special fuels imposed by chapters 82.36 and 82.38 RCW. Proceeds of these excise taxes are hereby pledged to the payment of any bonds and the interest thereon issued under the authority of sections 1 through 6 of this act, and the legislature agrees to continue to impose these excise taxes on motor vehicle and special fuels in amounts sufficient to pay, when due, the principal and interest on all bonds issued under the authority of sections 1 through 6 of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. Both principal and interest on the bonds issued for the purposes of sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be payable from the highway bond retirement fund. The state finance committee may provide that a special account be created in the fund to facilitate payment of the principal and interest. The state finance
committee shall, on or before June 30th of each year, certify to the
state treasurer the amount required for principal and interest on the
bonds in accordance with the bond proceedings. The state treasurer
shall withdraw revenues from the connecting Washington account in the
motor vehicle fund and deposit in the highway bond retirement fund, or
a special account in the fund, such amounts, and at such times, as are
required by the bond proceedings.

Any funds required for bond retirement or interest on the bonds
authorized by sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be taken from that
portion of the motor vehicle fund that results from the imposition of
excise taxes on motor vehicle and special fuels and that is distributed
to the connecting Washington account in the motor vehicle fund. Funds
required shall never constitute a charge against any other allocations
of motor vehicle fuel and special fuel tax revenues to the state,
counties, cities, and towns unless the amount arising from excise taxes
on motor vehicle and special fuels distributed to the connecting
Washington account proves insufficient to meet the requirements for
bond retirement or interest on any such bonds.

Any payments for bond retirement or interest on the bonds taken
from other revenues from the motor vehicle fuel or special fuel taxes
that are distributable to the state, counties, cities, and towns shall
be repaid from the first revenues from the motor vehicle fuel or
special fuel taxes distributed to the connecting Washington account not
required for bond retirement or interest on the bonds.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Bonds issued under the authority of sections
1 through 5 of this act and this section and any other general
obligation bonds of the state of Washington that have been or that may
be authorized and that pledge motor vehicle and special fuels excise
taxes for the payment of principal and interest thereon shall be an
equal charge against the revenues from such motor vehicle and special
fuels excise taxes.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. Sections 1 through 6 of this act are each
added to chapter 47.10 RCW.
NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. This act takes effect August 1, 2013.

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