

provided through a contract or contracts with regularly constituted insurance carriers or health care service contractors as defined in chapter 48.44 RCW, and a plan to be provided by a panel medicine plan in its service area only when approved by the board. The board may but shall not be required to pay more for health benefits under a panel medicine plan than it would otherwise be required to pay for health benefits by a contract with a regularly constituted insurance carrier or health care service contractor in effect at the time the panel medicine plan is included in the employee health care benefit plan. Except for panel medicine plans, no more than one insurance carrier or health care service contractor shall be contracted with to provide the same plan of benefits: PROVIDED, That employees may choose participation in only one of the health care benefit plans sponsored by the board. Active employees, as defined in RCW 41.05.020(2), eligible for medicare benefits shall have the option of continuing participation in health care programs on the same basis as all other employees or participation in medicare supplemental programs as may be developed by the board. These health care benefit plans shall provide coverage for all officials and employees and their dependents without premium or subscription cost to the individual employees and officials, unless the board approves a panel medicine plan at a subscription rate in excess of the premium of the regularly constituted insurance carrier or health care service contractor, in which circumstances an employee contribution may be authorized at an amount equal to such excess. Rates for self pay segments of state employee groups will be developed from the experience of the entire group. Such self pay rates will be established based on a separate rate for the employee, the spouse, and children.

(4) The board shall review plans proposed by insurance carriers who desire to offer property insurance and/or accident and casualty insurance to state employees through payroll deduction. The board may approve any such plan for payroll deduction by carriers holding a valid certificate of authority in the state of Washington and which the board determines to be in the best interests of employees and the state. The board shall promulgate rules setting forth criteria by which it shall evaluate the plans.

Passed the House February 27, 1980.

Passed the Senate February 19, 1980.

Approved by the Governor March 10, 1980.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 10, 1980.

CHAPTER 121

[Substitute House Bill No. 1778]

DRIVERS' LICENSING EXAMINING STATIONS—CONSTRUCTION, STAFFING—APPROPRIATION

AN ACT Relating to driver licensing; creating a new section; making an appropriation; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. The legislature finds that because of recent increases in population in our state, money previously provided to the department of licensing is currently inadequate to permit the department to provide sufficient, prompt, and convenient drivers' licensing services to our citizens. Because driver examining is an important element in the promotion of highway safety, it is essential the department receive an increased level of funding to perform this function. The purpose of this act is to provide sufficient funding to establish new drivers' license examining stations and to adequately staff them with trained personnel and to staff a new department of licensing region.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is hereby appropriated from the highway safety fund the amount of \$1,469,000, or so much thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this act, for the biennium ending June 30, 1981, to be used for the establishment of eight additional drivers' license examining stations to be located in the Redmond-Kirkland area, north Kitsap county, Federal Way, Midway area, Oak Harbor, Oroville, Othello, and east King county and for the funding of thirty-four additional full-time equivalent staff years annually to staff these stations and three additional full-time equivalent staff years annually to staff a new region: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That if chapter ... (HB 1571 or HB 1543), Laws of 1980 becomes law, the appropriation and full-time equivalent staff year authorization contained in this section shall remain unexpended to the extent that appropriations are made by that act for the purposes of carrying out section 1 of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

- Passed the House February 27, 1980.
- Passed the Senate February 26, 1980.
- Approved by the Governor March 10, 1980.
- Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 10, 1980.

CHAPTER 122

[Substitute House Bill No. 440]

SCHOOL BUSES—NONSTUDENT SPACE AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION

AN ACT Relating to education; amending section 28A.24.055, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as last amended by section 1, chapter 45, Laws of 1973 and RCW 28A.24.055; and adding a new section to chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and to chapter 28A.24 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington: