
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5605

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Prentice and Prince)

Read first time 03/03/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to roadside improvements; amending RCW 47.36.310
2 and 47.42.120; and adding a new section to chapter 47.40 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.40 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The highway heritage account is created in the transportation fund.
7 Revenue from this account shall be appropriated to the department of
8 transportation and shall be used exclusively for grants to public
9 agencies and private nonprofit organizations (1) to allow citizens to
10 participate in comprehensive highway corridor programs, or (2) for
11 projects that preserve, enhance, provide information about, or improve
12 access to scenic, historical, or cultural features along state highways
13 and county roads. Use of this revenue to match federal or local
14 revenue available for purposes described in this section is a high
15 priority.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.36.310 and 1987 c 469 s 3 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

1 The department is authorized to erect and maintain specific
2 information panels within the right of way of the interstate highway
3 system to give the traveling public specific information as to gas,
4 food, or lodging available on a crossroad at or near an interchange.
5 Specific information panels shall include the words "GAS," "FOOD," or
6 "LODGING" and directional information and may contain one or more
7 individual business signs maintained on the panel. Specific
8 information panels are authorized within the corporate limits of cities
9 and towns and areas zoned for commercial or industrial uses at
10 locations where there is adequate distance between interchanges to
11 ensure compliance with the provisions of Title 23 C.F.R. sec.
12 655.307(a). The erection and maintenance of specific information
13 panels shall conform to the national standards promulgated by the
14 United States secretary of transportation pursuant to sections 131 and
15 315 of Title 23, United States Code and rules adopted by the state
16 department of transportation. A motorist service business located
17 within one mile of a state highway shall not be permitted to display
18 its name, brand, or trademark on a specific information panel unless
19 its owner has first entered into an agreement with the department
20 limiting the height of its on-premise signs at the site of its service
21 installation to not more than fifteen feet higher than the roof of its
22 main building. The department shall charge reasonable fees for the
23 display of individual business signs to defray the costs of their
24 installation and maintenance. In addition, businesses shall pay an
25 annual fee of fifty dollars per mainline sign before an interchange to
26 be deposited in the highway heritage account created in section 1 of
27 this act. The restriction for on-premise signs shall not apply if the
28 sign is not visible from the highway. The department may, on a case-
29 by-case basis, waive the height restriction when an on-premise sign is
30 visible from the rural interstate system.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.42.120 and 1984 c 7 s 232 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, no sign
34 except a sign of type 1 or 2 or those type 3 signs that advertise
35 activities conducted upon the properties where the signs are located,
36 may be erected or maintained without a permit issued by the department.
37 Application for a permit shall be made to the department on forms
38 furnished by it. The forms shall contain a statement that the owner or

1 lessee of the land in question has consented thereto. The application
2 shall be accompanied by a fee (~~of ten dollars~~) to be deposited with
3 the state treasurer to the credit of the motor vehicle fund. Permits
4 shall be for the calendar year and shall be renewed annually upon
5 payment of this fee for the new year without the filing of a new
6 application. The department shall set by rule the initial and renewal
7 permit fees to defray administrative costs. In addition, businesses
8 shall pay an annual fee of fifty dollars for each type 4 and type 5
9 sign to be deposited in the highway heritage account created in section
10 1 of this act. Fees shall not be prorated for fractions of the year.
11 Advertising copy may be changed at any time without the payment of an
12 additional fee. Assignment of permits in good standing is effective
13 only upon receipt of written notice of assignment by the department.
14 A permit may be revoked after hearing if the department finds that any
15 statement made in the application was false or misleading, or that the
16 sign covered is not in good general condition and in a reasonable state
17 of repair, or is otherwise in violation of this chapter, if the false
18 or misleading information has not been corrected and the sign has not
19 been brought into compliance with this chapter within thirty days after
20 written notification.

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