

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6465

As of January 21, 2010

Title: An act relating to commercial activity at state-owned safety rest areas.

Brief Description: Authorizing certain commercial activity at state-owned safety rest areas.

Sponsors: Senators Shin, Delvin, Berkey, McDermott, Rockefeller and Franklin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Amanda Cecil (786-7429)

Background: There are currently 47 safety rest areas located through out the state, of which 28 are part of the interstate system and 19 are located on state routes. Commercial activity at safety rest areas that are part of the interstate system is prohibited by federal law.

Summary of Bill: To the extent permitted under federal law, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) may enter into leases with private businesses to allow commercial activity at safety rest areas. The commercial activity can include food or beverage retailers, restaurants, grocery and convenience stores, lodging, and service stations. Before entering into a lease, WSDOT must contact businesses within one mile from the highway exits before and after the safety rest area and allow them an absolute right of first refusal. The department must also ensure the most favorable lease rates for the state. Any lease must not interfere with any nonprofit organization that was previously conducting fund-raising activities.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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