
SENATE BILL 5596

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senator Jacobsen

Read first time 01/27/09. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting safe winter recreation by supporting
2 the continued operation of the northwest weather and avalanche center;
3 adding a new section to chapter 46.10 RCW; adding new sections to
4 chapter 79A.05 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the northwest
7 weather and avalanche center provides valuable avalanche forecasting
8 and education services, provides valuable information to the public,
9 and reduces the impacts of adverse mountain weather and avalanches on
10 recreation, industry, and transportation in Washington state.

11 The northwest weather and avalanche center is cooperatively funded
12 by a number of public and private entities. In recent years, however,
13 several budget crises have threatened to shut down the avalanche
14 center, posing risks to recreation safety, tourism, and freight and
15 passenger mobility.

16 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to ensure, in
17 continued cooperation with the federal government, appropriate states,
18 and private sources, that the northwest weather and avalanche center
19 receive the resources necessary to continue providing weather and

1 avalanche forecasts for the benefit of Washington state. It is also
2 the intent of the legislature that any resources provided to the center
3 through this act be in addition to, and not supplant, current support
4 from the state.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.10 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) In addition to the registration fees collected under RCW
8 46.10.040, the department shall collect a northwest weather and
9 avalanche center surcharge of two dollars. The revenue generated from
10 the surcharge must be deposited in the northwest weather and avalanche
11 center account established in section 4 of this act to be used solely
12 to support the operation of the northwest weather and avalanche center.

13 (2) This section applies to registrations due or to become due on
14 or after October 1, 2009.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) In addition to the fees collected for
16 winter recreation area parking permits authorized under RCW 79A.05.230,
17 the commission shall collect a northwest weather and avalanche center
18 surcharge of two dollars. The revenue generated from the surcharge
19 must be deposited in the northwest weather and avalanche center account
20 established in section 4 of this act to be used solely to support the
21 operation of the northwest weather and avalanche center.

22 (2) This section applies to winter recreation area parking permits
23 purchased on or after October 1, 2009.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The northwest weather and avalanche center
25 account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from the
26 northwest weather and avalanche center surcharges collected under
27 sections 2 and 3 of this act must be deposited into the account.
28 Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
29 Expenditures from the account may be used only to support the operation
30 of the northwest weather and avalanche center.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The commission shall collaborate with
32 appropriate public and private entities to seek sustainable and
33 cooperative funding for the northwest weather and avalanche center,

1 with equitable contributions from the federal government, appropriate
2 states, and private sources.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 3 through 5 of this act are each
4 added to chapter 79A.05 RCW.

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