
HOUSE BILL 1888

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Fraser, Prentice, Moyer, Jacobsen, Casada, Ogden, Rasmussen, Basich, Paris, Phillips and Nelson.

Read first time February 13, 1991. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting the scenic heritage along
2 Washington's highways; adding new sections to chapter 47.39 RCW; adding
3 a new section to chapter 46.68 RCW; creating a new section; and making
4 appropriations.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

7 (1) The majority of Washington's citizens, as well as tourists,
8 learn about and develop significant appreciation for the natural and
9 cultural heritage of the state through travel along Washington
10 highways.

11 (2) Strategies to help travelers become more informed about the
12 heritage of the area through which they are traveling are a matter of
13 public concern.

14 (3) The high rate of growth in the state in the past two decades
15 and the projected continued growth in the next two decades make it an

1 urgent matter to develop explicit state policy and strategies to
2 protect and promote appreciation of our heritage.

3 (4) Many exceptional scenic vistas in danger of being lost due to
4 lack of planning and coordination of development are on heavily
5 traveled corridors if not on the designated scenic and recreational
6 highway system.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.39 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 The department shall establish a highway heritage program to
10 preserve Washington's unique scenic character along its highway
11 corridors and provide travelers with a continuing opportunity to
12 appreciate and obtain information regarding unique natural, cultural,
13 and historic features that are near or accessible by highways.

14 (1) The department's program may:

15 (a) Acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, grant, or exchange,
16 title to or interest or right in real property adjacent to or visible
17 from state highways to accomplish any of the following: Preserve
18 natural beauty or viewpoints, preserve natural buffers between
19 highways, or enhance the visual quality of entrances to cities or other
20 land uses;

21 (b) Work with public and private landowners, local governments, and
22 private organizations and associations to propose actions to achieve
23 the purposes of this section without land acquisition, to the greatest
24 extent possible, including coordination with local land use and open
25 space plans, state agency programs relating to open space,
26 conservation, urban forestry, and natural resources management;

27 (c) Provide directional signs and signs with information regarding
28 historical or cultural sites and significant natural features. The
29 department shall provide free of charge directional signs on county

1 roads and city streets to supplement signs on highways if requested by
2 the city or county. This provision does not affect any other statute
3 governing signs;

4 (d) Work with the parks and recreation commission and the
5 Washington state historical society to identify projects and establish
6 priorities for expenditure of funds under this program. The department
7 shall reimburse the commission for any expenses incurred.

8 (2) In implementing subsection (1) of this section, the department
9 shall give priority to heavily traveled highway corridors where the
10 potential for loss of unique natural scenic areas is greatest and to
11 newly established highway corridors.

12 (3) The department shall maintain lands acquired and signs
13 developed through this program. Moneys from the highway heritage
14 account shall be used as in addition to, and not as a substitute for,
15 money currently used for the purposes specified in this section.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.68 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 The highway heritage account is created in the motor vehicle fund.
19 Beginning July 1, 1992, the state treasurer shall place three-tenths of
20 one percent of the revenue from any increase in the tax on motor
21 vehicle fuel collected under chapter 82.36 RCW that is imposed after
22 January 1, 1990, after proper deductions for costs of collection as
23 provided in RCW 46.68.090, in the highway heritage account.

24 The state treasurer shall also place any monetary contributions
25 made to the highway heritage program in the highway heritage account.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 47.39 RCW
27 to read as follows:

1 The department shall consult with local governments, as well as
2 public agencies, tribal governments and private organizations concerned
3 with growth management, tourism, parks, recreation, community
4 development, historical appreciation, natural resources, habitat
5 protection, conservation, open space plans, and economic development
6 to encourage activities that promote the goals of section 2 of this
7 act. The department may also develop temporary advisory committees as
8 it determines necessary.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of seventy-five thousand
10 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
11 the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the motor vehicle fund to the
12 department of transportation to complete its survey of the scenic and
13 recreational highways begun in 1990. The department shall report its
14 findings to the legislative transportation committee by December 1,
15 1991.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as
17 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
18 ending June 30, 1993, from the motor vehicle fund to the department of
19 transportation to develop an implementation plan for the highway
20 heritage program. The department shall report its findings to the
21 legislative transportation committee by December 1, 1991.