

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 2589

*As Passed House
February 14, 1992*

Title: An act relating to scenic and recreational highways.

Brief Description: Revising scenic and recreational highway routes.

Sponsor(s): By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Fraser, R. Fisher, Betrozoff, Basich and Jacobsen).

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Transportation, February 10, 1992, DPS;
Passed House, February 14, 1992, 93-0.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION**

Majority Report: *The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass.* Signed by 26 members: Representatives R. Fisher, Chair; R. Meyers, Vice Chair; Betrozoff, Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Brough; Cantwell; Cooper; Day; G. Fisher; Forner; Haugen; Heavey; Horn; P. Johnson; R. Johnson; Jones; Kremen; Mitchell; Nelson; Orr; Prentice; Prince; Schmidt; Wilson; Wood; and Zellinsky.

Staff: Brian McMorrow (786-7304).

Background: In 1990 the Legislature directed the Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop a method for assessing the scenic, recreational and cultural characteristics of Washington state's highways, and to establish an appropriate threshold for the addition of highways to the scenic and recreational highways system. During the following session the Legislature directed the DOT to complete its assessment of the state highway system and to identify highways eligible for the program.

Currently, 1,773 miles of the state's 7000-mile highway system are included in the Scenic and Recreational Highways Program.

The Scenic Vistas Act of 1971, also known as the Highway Advertising Control Act, restricts the use of billboards along state highways.

Summary of Bill: The bill adds 1,360 miles of state highways to the scenic and recreational highways system. It removes 165 miles from the scenic and recreational highways system and places them under the control of the Scenic Vistas Act of 1971.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: Washington state scenic beauty attracts thousands of tourists each year. The Scenic and Recreational Highways Program makes certain that scenic vistas will be preserved.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: Dennis Ingham, Department of Transportation; and Ralph Munro, Secretary of State.