

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5316

---

As Passed Senate, March 5, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to parking fees of the state convention and trade center.

**Brief Description:** Using credit and debit cards when parking at the state convention and trade center.

**Sponsors:** Senators West, Strannigan, Winsley, Wood, Hale, Horn, Kohl, Prince, Oke, Patterson, Roach, Deccio, Schow, Hochstatter, Bauer, Sheldon and Heavey.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Ways & Means: 2/6/97, 2/11/97 [DP, DNP].  
Passed Senate, 3/5/97, 41-3.

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators West, Chair; Deccio, Vice Chair; Strannigan, Vice Chair; Bauer, Fraser, Kohl, Long, Roach, Rossi, Schow, Sheldon, Snyder, Spanel, Swecker, Winsley and Zarelli.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Loveland and Thibaudeau.

**Staff:** Maura Sullivan (786-7431)

**Background:** The Washington State Convention and Trade Center (WSCTC), a state agency, hosts national, international and regional conventions and trade shows. The center receives revenues from operations, parking and the hotel/motel tax. The Convention Center Parking Garage generates about \$850,000 net income annually. The Freeway Park Garage, recently leased from the City of Seattle, should produce about \$320,000 in net annual revenues. Currently, the WSCTC does not accept credit cards as payment for parking.

**Summary of Bill:** The WSCTC must accept credit and debit cards for parking charges. As a result, the WSCTC expects to pay about \$10,000 for equipment purchases and \$3,500 per year in credit card charges.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

**Testimony For:** Taking credit cards could generate increased revenues due to better customer service and convenience factors.

**Testimony Against:** It may take extra time to process credit card payments. This could be problematic when many parkers are trying to leave at once, for example, after large events.

**Testified:** PRO: Senator Jim West, prime sponsor; CON: John Christison, Washington State Convention and Trade Center.