
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6113

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Swecker and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/2002.

1 AN ACT Relating to use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes by ultra-
2 fuel-efficient vehicles; amending RCW 46.61.165 and 47.52.025; adding
3 a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
4 46.16 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 "Ultra-fuel-efficient vehicle" means a vehicle that averages
9 greater than forty-six miles per gallon of fuel as certified by the
10 manufacturer, including but not limited to a gasoline-electric hybrid
11 vehicle.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 Effective with registrations that are due or become due beginning
15 January 1, 2003, the department shall design and issue optional permits
16 for owners of manufacturer-certified ultra-fuel-efficient vehicles that
17 will entitle the operator of the vehicle to use special lanes as
18 specified in RCW 46.61.165 and 47.52.025. The department shall charge

1 an annual fee of two hundred dollars for the permit. The permit is
2 nontransferable. The department shall send the fee to the state
3 treasurer for deposit in the multimodal transportation account.

4 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.61.165 and 1999 c 206 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The state department of transportation and the local authorities
7 are authorized to reserve all or any portion of any highway under their
8 respective jurisdictions, including any designated lane or ramp, for
9 the exclusive or preferential use of public transportation vehicles or
10 private motor vehicles carrying no fewer than a specified number of
11 passengers when such limitation will increase the efficient utilization
12 of the highway or will aid in the conservation of energy resources.
13 The department may open any such lanes to use by single-occupant
14 vehicles that are ultra-fuel-efficient at such times or locations when
15 the addition of these vehicles would not unduly contribute to
16 congestion or impede the flow of traffic. The vehicle must also
17 display a permit issued by the department of licensing under section 2
18 of this act authorizing the use of such lanes. The permit must be
19 placed on the motor vehicle as prescribed by the department.
20 Regulations authorizing such exclusive or preferential use of a highway
21 facility may be declared to be effective at all times or at specified
22 times of day or on specified days. Violation of a restriction of
23 highway usage prescribed by the appropriate authority under this
24 section is a traffic infraction.

25 **Sec. 4.** RCW 47.52.025 and 1974 ex.s. c 133 s 1 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Highway authorities of the state, counties, and incorporated cities
28 and towns, in addition to the specific powers granted in this chapter,
29 shall also have, and may exercise, relative to limited access
30 facilities, any and all additional authority, now or hereafter vested
31 in them relative to highways or streets within their respective
32 jurisdictions, and may regulate, restrict, or prohibit the use of such
33 limited access facilities by various classes of vehicles or traffic.
34 Such highway authorities may reserve any limited access facility or
35 portions thereof, including designated lanes or ramps for the exclusive
36 or preferential use of public transportation vehicles, privately owned
37 buses, or private motor vehicles carrying not less than a specified

1 number of passengers when such limitation will increase the efficient
2 utilization of the highway facility or will aid in the conservation of
3 energy resources. The department may open any such lanes to use by
4 single-occupant vehicles that are ultra-fuel-efficient at such times or
5 locations when the addition of these vehicles would not unduly
6 contribute to congestion or impede the flow of traffic. The vehicle
7 must also display a permit issued by the department of licensing under
8 section 2 of this act authorizing the use of such lanes. The permit
9 must be placed on the motor vehicle as prescribed by the department.
10 Regulations authorizing such exclusive or preferential use of a highway
11 facility may be declared to be effective at all time or at specified
12 times of day or on specified days.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department of transportation shall work
14 with the federal highway administration and other necessary federal
15 agencies to implement the intent of this act.

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