
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6569

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Finkbeiner and Gardner)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/2002.

1 AN ACT Relating to green lanes; amending RCW 46.61.165; and
2 prescribing penalties.

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

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

6 (1) The state department of transportation and the local
7 authorities are authorized to reserve all or any portion of any highway
8 under their respective jurisdictions, including any designated lane or
9 ramp, for the exclusive or preferential use of public transportation
10 vehicles or private motor vehicles carrying no fewer than a specified
11 number of passengers when such limitation will increase the efficient
12 utilization of the highway or will aid in the conservation of energy
13 resources.

14 (2) The state department of transportation and the local
15 authorities may designate all or any portion of any highway under their
16 respective jurisdictions, or any lanes restricted under subsection (1)
17 of this section, including any designated lane or ramp, as green lanes.
18 Green lanes will be for the exclusive or preferential use of green
19 vehicles when the limitations will increase the efficient use of the

1 highway, will aid in the conservation of energy resources, or will
2 improve air quality. For purposes of this section, "green vehicles"
3 means:

4 (a) Public transportation vehicles;

5 (b) Private motor vehicles carrying no fewer than a specified
6 number of passengers;

7 (c) Private motor vehicles whose average gasoline mileage is at
8 least twice the national average for passenger cars, as that figure is
9 determined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

10 (d) Private motor vehicles that are permanently mitigating the
11 greenhouse gas emissions emitted by paying a mitigation fee under
12 subsection (3) of this section.

13 (3) The department of licensing shall set a mitigation fee, or a
14 schedule of fees based on the age or relative emissions of a vehicle,
15 for green vehicles under subsection (2)(d) of this section of no more
16 than three thousand six hundred dollars annually. In setting this fee,
17 the department may consult with any public or private institution,
18 including, but not limited to, the department of ecology, the office of
19 trade and economic development, the utilities and transportation
20 commission, and the Washington state energy program.

21 (a) One-half of this fee must be transferred to the Washington
22 State University energy program for the study of the climate and rural
23 energy development, which shall use this fee for air pollution
24 mitigation within the boundaries of the air pollution control
25 authorities for the counties in which a green vehicle paying a
26 mitigation fee is used; and

27 (b) One-half of this fee must be used to purchase mass transit
28 passes for low-income riders within the boundaries of a transit
29 authority in which a green vehicle paying a mitigation fee is used.

30 Fees under this subsection (3) may be collected annually, at the
31 time of vehicle registration or renewal, or they may be collected
32 monthly.

33 (4) The department of licensing, in consultation with the state
34 patrol, shall issue a highly visible green decal to be attached near
35 the license plate or in the rear window of vehicles that qualify under
36 subsection (2)(c) or (d) of this section. This decal will be issued
37 annually at the time of the vehicle's license renewal if that vehicle
38 meets the requirements for the upcoming registration year. Presence of
39 this decal is necessary for the vehicle to use a green lane. Vehicles

1 that otherwise meet the requirements of subsection (2)(c) or (d) of
2 this section that fail to display the decal may be cited for a traffic
3 infraction under subsection (6) of this section. The department shall
4 provide to appropriate law enforcement agencies the names and license
5 numbers of qualifying green vehicles to which a green decal has been
6 issued.

7 (5) Regulations authorizing (~~such~~) exclusive or preferential use
8 of a highway facility under this section may be declared to be
9 effective at all times or at specified times of day or on specified
10 days.

11 (6) Violation of a restriction of highway usage prescribed by the
12 appropriate authority under this section is a traffic infraction.

--- END ---