
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1798

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Simpson, Skinner, Lovick, Armstrong, B. Sullivan, Schindler, Upthegrove, Murray and Hudgins)

READ FIRST TIME 03/08/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to motorist information sign panels; amending RCW
2 47.36.310; reenacting and amending RCW 47.36.320; creating a new
3 section; and repealing RCW 47.36.325.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.36.310 and 1999 c 201 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The department is authorized to erect and maintain motorist
8 information sign panels within the right of way of the interstate
9 highway system to give the traveling public specific information as to
10 gas, food, lodging, camping, or tourist-oriented business available on
11 a crossroad at or near an interchange. Motorist information sign
12 panels shall include the words "GAS," "FOOD," "LODGING," "CAMPING," or
13 "TOURIST ACTIVITIES" and directional information and may contain one or
14 more individual business signs maintained on the panel. In managing
15 the number of individual business signs to be displayed, the department
16 must ensure the use of available space on a panel is maximized.
17 Motorist information sign panels are authorized within the corporate
18 limits of cities and towns and areas zoned for commercial or industrial
19 uses at locations where there is adequate distance between interchanges

1 to ensure compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control
2 Devices. The erection and maintenance of motorist information sign
3 panels shall also conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control
4 Devices and rules adopted by the state department of transportation.
5 A motorist service or tourist-oriented business located within one mile
6 of an interstate highway shall not be permitted to display its name,
7 brand, or trademark on a motorist information sign panel unless its
8 owner has first entered into an agreement with the department limiting
9 the height of its on-premise signs at the site of its service
10 installation to not more than fifteen feet higher than the roof of its
11 main building measured to the bottom of the on-premise sign. The
12 restriction for on-premise signs does not apply if the sign is not
13 visible from the highway. The department may, on a case-by-case basis,
14 waive the height restriction when an on-premise sign is visible from
15 the rural interstate system. The department shall charge
16 ~~((reasonable))~~ sufficient fees for the display of individual business
17 signs to ~~((defray))~~ recover the costs of their installation and
18 maintenance, and ~~((may))~~ shall charge ~~((reasonable))~~ sufficient fees to
19 recover costs for the erection and maintenance of the motorist
20 information sign panels.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.36.320 and 1999 c 213 s 1 and 1999 c 201 s 4 are
22 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

23 The department is authorized to erect and maintain motorist
24 information sign panels within the right of way of noninterstate
25 highways to give the traveling public specific information as to gas,
26 food, lodging, recreation, or tourist-oriented businesses accessible by
27 way of highways intersecting the noninterstate highway. The motorist
28 information sign panels are permitted only at locations within the
29 corporate limits of cities and towns and areas zoned for commercial or
30 industrial uses where there is adequate distance between interchanges
31 to ensure compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control
32 Devices. Motorist information sign panels shall include the words
33 "GAS," "FOOD," "LODGING," "RECREATION," or "TOURIST ACTIVITIES" and
34 directional information and may contain one or more individual business
35 signs maintained on the panel. In managing the number of individual
36 business signs to be displayed, the department must ensure the use of
37 available space on a panel is maximized. The erection and maintenance

1 of motorist information sign panels along noninterstate highways shall
2 also conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and rules
3 adopted by the state department of transportation. A motorist service
4 or tourist-oriented business located within one mile of a noninterstate
5 highway shall not be permitted to display its name, brand, or trademark
6 on a motorist information sign panel unless its owner has first entered
7 into an agreement with the department limiting the height of its on-
8 premise signs at the site of its service installation to not more than
9 fifteen feet higher than the roof of its main building measured to the
10 bottom of the on-premise sign.

11 The department shall adopt rules for the erection and maintenance
12 of tourist-oriented directional signs with the following restrictions:

13 (1) Where installed, they shall be placed in advance of the "GAS,"
14 "FOOD," "LODGING," or "RECREATION" motorist information sign panels
15 previously described in this section;

16 (2) Signs shall not be placed to direct a motorist to an activity
17 visible from the main traveled roadway;

18 (3) Premises on which the qualified tourist-oriented business is
19 located must be within fifteen miles of the state highway except as
20 provided in RCW 47.36.330(3) (b) and (c), and necessary supplemental
21 signing on local roads must be provided before the installation of the
22 signs on the state highway.

23 The department shall charge (~~reasonable~~) sufficient fees for the
24 display of individual business signs to (~~defray~~) recover the costs of
25 their installation and maintenance, and (~~may~~) shall charge
26 (~~reasonable~~) sufficient fees to recover the costs for the erection
27 and maintenance of the motorist information sign panels.

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The department of transportation shall
29 submit an electronic report by December 15, 2005, to the house of
30 representatives and senate transportation committees detailing revenues
31 and expenditures of the motorist information sign program. The report
32 shall also include a detailed explanation of the methodology and
33 calculation of costs charged to businesses using the program.

34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. RCW 47.36.325 (Motorist information signs--

1 Private contractors) and 2002 c 321 s 1 are each repealed.

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