
SENATE BILL 5394

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senator Prentice

Read first time 01/24/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to transportation system signage using icons and
2 pictograms; adding a new section to chapter 35.95A RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 81.112 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
6 promote the use of icons and pictograms that incorporate the use of
7 commonly accepted symbols that can be understood and interpreted by a
8 variety of people from all walks of life and different nations in order
9 to assist them in the navigation of this state. These signs can be
10 used on roadways and for other transportation-related facilities such
11 as transit stations, airports, bus and train stations, and ferry
12 terminals. Pictograms are signs that depict services, facilities, or
13 destinations in picture form and are used throughout the world.
14 Pictograms are useful for traveling within a transit system as well as
15 for locating transit system stations and stops.

16 The legislature finds that many signing methods such as icons,
17 already in use by the Washington state department of transportation and
18 other agencies, facilitate use of the transportation systems in the
19 state and connections between modes. The legislature also finds that

1 the development of pictograms for use within transit systems will
2 assist system users, complement other signing methods, and increase
3 transit system ridership through easier way-finding. The pictograms
4 may reflect the unique characteristics of the facility, and those
5 characteristics should be considered and are acceptable in icon and
6 pictogram design. It is the intent of the legislature to have icons
7 and pictograms in use as new systems are put into service to promote
8 tourism and be in place by 2010 to assist international visitors coming
9 to Washington during the Olympic Games in Vancouver, British Columbia,
10 Canada.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.95A RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 Each authority shall incorporate in plans for stations along any
14 monorail project signing that is easily understood by the traveling
15 public, including, but not limited to, persons with disabilities, non-
16 English speaking persons, and visitors from other nations. The signage
17 must employ graphics consistent with international symbols for
18 transportation facilities and signage that are consistent with
19 department of transportation guidelines and programs. The signage must
20 also use distinguishing pictograms as a means to identify stations and
21 points of interest along the monorail corridor for persons who use
22 languages that are not Roman-alphabet based. These requirements are
23 intended to apply to new sign installation and not to existing signs.
24 The authority may replace existing signs as it chooses; however, it
25 shall use the new signing designs when existing signs are replaced.
26 All signage must comply with requirements of applicable federal law and
27 may include recommendations contained in federal publications providing
28 directions on way-finding for persons with disabilities.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 Each authority shall incorporate in plans for stations along any
32 light-rail or commuter rail facility signing that is easily understood
33 by the traveling public, including, but not limited to, persons with
34 disabilities, non-English speaking persons, and visitors from other
35 nations. The signage must employ graphics consistent with
36 international symbols for transportation facilities and signage that

1 are consistent with department of transportation guidelines and
2 programs. The signage must also use distinguishing symbols or
3 pictograms as a means to identify stations and points of interest along
4 the corridor for persons who use languages that are not Roman-alphabet
5 based. These requirements are intended to apply to new sign
6 installation and not to existing signs. The authority may replace
7 existing signs as it chooses; however, it shall use the new signing
8 designs when existing signs are replaced. All signage must comply with
9 requirements of applicable federal law and may include recommendations
10 contained in federal publications providing directions on way-finding
11 for persons with disabilities.

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