
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5822

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Swecker, Poulsen, Kastama, Spanel, Schmidt, Berkey, Schoesler, Hewitt, Esser, Mulliken and Jacobsen)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to motorist information sign panels; amending RCW
2 47.36.310; reenacting and amending RCW 47.36.320; and repealing RCW
3 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. Motorist
15 information sign panels are authorized within the corporate limits of
16 cities and towns and areas zoned for commercial or industrial uses at
17 locations where there is adequate distance between interchanges to
18 ensure compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
19 The erection and maintenance of motorist information sign panels shall

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

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

20 The department is authorized to erect and maintain motorist
21 information sign panels within the right of way of noninterstate
22 highways to give the traveling public specific information as to gas,
23 food, lodging, recreation, or tourist-oriented businesses accessible by
24 way of highways intersecting the noninterstate highway. The motorist
25 information sign panels are permitted only at locations within the
26 corporate limits of cities and towns and areas zoned for commercial or
27 industrial uses where there is adequate distance between interchanges
28 to ensure compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control
29 Devices. Motorist information sign panels shall include the words
30 "GAS," "FOOD," "LODGING," "RECREATION," or "TOURIST ACTIVITIES" and
31 directional information and may contain one or more individual business
32 signs maintained on the panel. The erection and maintenance of
33 motorist information sign panels along noninterstate highways shall
34 also conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and rules
35 adopted by the state department of transportation. A motorist service
36 or tourist-oriented business located within one mile of a noninterstate
37 highway shall not be permitted to display its name, brand, or trademark

1 on a motorist information sign panel unless its owner has first entered
2 into an agreement with the department limiting the height of its on-
3 premise signs at the site of its service installation to not more than
4 fifteen feet higher than the roof of its main building measured to the
5 bottom of the on-premise sign.

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

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

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

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

18 The department shall charge reasonable fees for the display of
19 individual business signs to defray the costs of their installation and
20 maintenance, and (~~may~~) shall charge reasonable fees for the erection
21 and maintenance of the motorist information sign panels.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.36.325 (Motorist information signs--
23 Private contractors) and 2002 c 321 s 1 are each repealed.

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