
SENATE BILL 5859

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/10/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to department of transportation farmland
2 preservation efforts concerning certain transportation projects; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 47.12 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.12 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 Whenever the department secures land or interests in land by
8 eminent domain for a right of way in order to construct or improve a
9 state highway or other state transportation facility and the land is in
10 an area designated as agricultural land of long-term commercial
11 significance under RCW 36.70A.170, the department shall pay a farmland
12 mitigation fee to the county in which the land exists. The county
13 shall use the farmland mitigation fee to purchase development rights to
14 an equivalent amount of agricultural land of comparable or better soil
15 quality elsewhere in the respective county. The farmland mitigation
16 fee imposed under this section applies only to transportation projects
17 in a county administering a farmland preservation program that allows
18 for the purchase of development rights from willing sellers. The

1 respective county shall calculate the farmland mitigation fee in
2 conformance with the current values being paid by the county's farmland
3 preservation program.

--- END ---