

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6211

As of January 13, 2010

Title: An act relating to creating an agricultural scenic corridor within the scenic and recreational highway system.

Brief Description: Creating an agricultural scenic corridor within the scenic and recreational highway system.

Sponsors: Senators Haugen, Hatfield and Kohl-Welles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/11/10.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Hayley Gamble (786-7452)

Background: The Scenic and Recreational Highway System was created in statute in 1967. Modifications to the state process for classifying highways as part of the scenic highway system were made in 1999 in order to make Washington highways competitive under the new federal "Scenic Byways" grant program. Additional highways and the ferry system have been added over time to the scenic highway system either through recommendation from the Department of Transportation followed by legislation, or direct legislation. The Transportation Commission may designate, on an interim basis, state scenic byways. In order to become permanent, the Legislature must approve this designation.

Summary of Bill: Two portions of State Route 5 in Skagit and Snohomish counties, between Starbird Interchange and Hickox Interchange, and between Chuckanut Interchange and Bow Hill Interchange, are designated as part of the scenic and recreational highway system and also designated as an agricultural scenic corridor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill has no fiscal impact. This is another tool to promote farmland and allow access to federal grants. This is a historic area with fourth generation farmers working in this area. This bill will draw attention to the rich history of farming in this area and help promote agri-tourism business. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) supports this bill.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, Mike Shelby, Western Washington Agricultural Association, Jeff Canaan, Washington State DOA.