

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5761

As of February 25, 2013

Title: An act relating to outdoor advertising sign fees, labels, and prohibitions.

Brief Description: Concerning outdoor advertising sign fees, labels, and prohibitions.

Sponsors: Senators King and Hobbs; by request of Department of Transportation.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/20/13.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Clint McCarthy (786-7319)

Background: The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Outdoor Advertising Control (OAC) program is responsible for conducting surveillance on regulated routes, performing illegal sign abatement activities, issuing and renewing sign permits, assisting with disseminating legal advice through the Office of the Attorney General, and initiating regulatory changes through the WAC rulemaking process.

The OAC program currently charges a one-time non-refundable \$300 permit application fee. WSDOT does not assess an annual renewal fee for off-premise sign permits. Over the past four years, the program has averaged 35 applications per year and has generated \$10,500. This current fee structure covers approximately 2 percent of the program's cost. The initial cost of applying for a permit remains at \$300.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): The Scenic Vista Act (RCW 47.42) is amended to allow WSDOT to charge an annual fee for billboard sign permits of \$150. The annual fee will be used to cover the cost of the program and raise between \$243,000 and \$486,000.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is agency request legislation. State and federal law requires WSDOT to regulate outdoor signs. This bill will allow the state to cover the requests. This is a cost recovery bill that impacts off-premise advertising. Renewals would begin in December.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Craig Stone, WSDOT