

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5761

C 312 L 13
Synopsis as Enacted

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

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators King and Hobbs; by request of Department of Transportation).

Senate Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Transportation

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 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: The Scenic Vista Act is amended to allow WSDOT to charge a maximum 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. WSDOT is directed to establish exemptions from payment for type 4 and 5 signs that do not generate rental income. The size of a permitted sign label is increased from 16 square inches to 28 square inches. WSDOT is given the authority to assess a fine of \$100 for every day a sign does not conform to statute until the sign is brought into compliance or removed.

Votes on Final Passage:

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|--------|----|----|--------------------|
| Senate | 43 | 6 | |
| House | 57 | 36 | (House amended) |
| Senate | 40 | 8 | (Senate concurred) |

Effective: July 28, 2013.

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.