
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6592

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Holy, Hunt, Takko, and Keiser)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to tourism authorities; amending RCW 35.101.010
2 and 35.101.130; adding new sections to chapter 35.101 RCW; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35.101.010 and 2015 c 131 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
8 this section apply throughout this chapter.

9 (1) "Area" means a tourism promotion area.

10 (2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,
11 "legislative authority" means the legislative authority of any county
12 (~~with a population greater than forty thousand~~), or of any city or
13 town within such a county, including unclassified cities or towns
14 operating under special charters.

15 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, in any county
16 with a population of one million or more, "legislative authority"
17 means two or more jurisdictions acting jointly as the legislative
18 authority under an interlocal agreement created under chapter 39.34
19 RCW for the joint establishment and operation of a tourism promotion
20 area.

1 (c) For a city incorporated after January 1990, with a population
2 greater than eighty-nine thousand, and located in a county described
3 in (b) of this subsection, "legislative authority" means the city's
4 legislative authority.

5 (3) "Lodging business" means a person that furnishes lodging
6 taxable by the state under chapter 82.08 RCW that has forty or more
7 lodging units.

8 (4) "Tourism promotion" means activities and expenditures
9 designed to increase tourism and convention business, including but
10 not limited to advertising, publicizing, or otherwise distributing
11 information for the purpose of attracting and welcoming tourists, and
12 operating tourism destination marketing organizations.

13 (5) "Tourist" means a person who travels for business or pleasure
14 on a trip:

15 (a) Away from the person's place of residence or business and
16 stays overnight in paid accommodations;

17 (b) To a place at least fifty miles away one way by driving
18 distance from the person's place of residence or business for the day
19 or stays overnight. However, island communities without land access
20 are exempt from the mileage requirement under this subsection (5)(b);
21 or

22 (c) To another country or state outside of the person's place of
23 residence or business.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 35.101
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) In addition to the two dollar charge authorized by RCW
27 35.101.050, a legislative authority may impose an additional charge
28 of up to three dollars per night of stay on the furnishing of lodging
29 by a lodging business located in the area.

30 (2) This section expires July 1, 2027.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35.101.130 and 2003 c 148 s 13 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) The legislative authority imposing the charge shall have sole
34 discretion as to how the revenue derived from the charge is to be
35 used to promote tourism that increases the number of tourists to the
36 area. However, the legislative authority may appoint existing
37 advisory boards or commissions to make recommendations as to its use,

1 or the legislative authority may create a new advisory board or
2 commission for (~~the [that]~~) that purpose.

3 (2) The legislative authority may contract with tourism
4 destination marketing organizations or other similar organizations to
5 administer the operation of the area, so long as the administration
6 complies with all applicable provisions of law, including this
7 chapter, and with all county, city, or town resolutions and
8 ordinances, and with all regulations lawfully imposed by the state
9 auditor or other state agencies.

10 (3) If a majority of those lodging businesses assessed the
11 charges imposed under RCW 35.101.050 or section 2 of this act
12 petition in writing to the legislative authority that the charge be
13 removed, the legislative authority must remove the charge.

14 (4) Any legislative authority with a charge in place under RCW
15 35.101.050 as of January 1, 2020, shall not have the charge be
16 amended as provided under subsection (3) of this section unless the
17 legislative authority has adopted an increase to the charge as
18 authorized in section 2 of this act.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 35.101
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 Each tourism promotion area must conduct a program review of the
22 additional tourism promotion area charge established in section 2 of
23 this act. The review must be completed and submitted to the
24 appropriate committees of the legislature by January 1, 2026. The
25 review must:

26 (1) Analyze how tourism promotion area charge funds were used
27 during the period when the additional charge was imposed;

28 (2) Identify additional marketing and promotional measures
29 conducted or purchased with additional funds beyond the current two
30 dollar charge;

31 (3) Assess whether additional tourism promotion area charges
32 above two dollars contributed to an actual increase in the number of
33 tourists, as defined in RCW 35.101.010; and

34 (4) Assess the average additional cost per visit per tourist due
35 to additional tourism promotion area charges above two dollars.

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