
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1655

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Griffey, Shewmake, Barkis, Eslick, Chase, Graham, Paul, Dent, Gilday, Jacobsen, Pollet, Riccelli, Frame, Young, and Taylor)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to having safety rest areas open to the public as
2 soon as possible; adding a new section to chapter 47.38 RCW; creating
3 a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Commercial motor vehicle parking shortages
6 are a national safety concern. Washington state has exacerbated the
7 problem in the fall of 2021 by the closure of many state-owned and
8 operated safety rest areas. All vehicle drivers need safe places to
9 stop when they are tired to prevent serious and fatal injuries.
10 Washington's target zero plan reports that drowsy driving was a
11 factor in 44 deaths and 236 serious injuries from 2015-2017. One of
12 the ways Washington's target zero plan addresses this issue is having
13 available rest areas. The closure of state-owned safety rest areas is
14 contrary to state policy to have zero deaths on the roadways.

15 In addition, commercial truck drivers are required to take
16 federally mandated rest breaks that leads to the need for there to be
17 parking available in many locations throughout the highway system.
18 Safety rest areas are important for supply line integrity and the use
19 by the traveling public. The legislature believes it is essential for
20 this public service to be restored and maintained in the future as
21 quickly as possible.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.38
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The department is directed to reconfigure its maintenance
4 operations to assure that its owned and operated safety rest areas
5 are open for use except for seasonal closures or cleaning,
6 maintenance, and repairs. The change in structure may take advantage
7 of the gig economy and restructure existing vacant employee positions
8 to be more in line with current needs.

9 (2) The department may initiate a strategic planning process that
10 addresses the maintenance, operation, and safety of its owned and
11 operated safety rest areas. At a minimum, this plan shall evaluate
12 operations, maintenance, safety, and commercial motor vehicle parking
13 at safety rest areas. The department must engage members from the
14 freight community and other stakeholders for recommendations and
15 solutions. The plan must identify strategies that the department can
16 employ to ensure commercial motor vehicle parking is available at
17 state-owned and operated safety rest areas. The department shall
18 prioritize the planning effort to conclude by the end of the
19 2021-2023 biennium.

20 (3) The department must report to the transportation committees
21 of the legislature the changes that have been made to or are planned
22 to be made to operation of the safety rest areas by January 15, 2023,
23 including recommendations related to commercial vehicle parking.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
26 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
27 effect immediately.

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