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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5605**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1993 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Prentice and Prince)

Read first time 03/03/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to roadside improvements; amending RCW 47.36.310  
2 and 47.42.120; and adding a new section to chapter 47.40 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.40 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The highway heritage account is created in the transportation fund.  
7 Revenue from this account shall be appropriated to the department of  
8 transportation and shall be used exclusively for grants to public  
9 agencies and private nonprofit organizations (1) to allow citizens to  
10 participate in comprehensive highway corridor programs, or (2) for  
11 projects that preserve, enhance, provide information about, or improve  
12 access to scenic, historical, or cultural features along state highways  
13 and county roads. Use of this revenue to match federal or local  
14 revenue available for purposes described in this section is a high  
15 priority.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.36.310 and 1987 c 469 s 3 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

1       The department is authorized to erect and maintain specific  
2 information panels within the right of way of the interstate highway  
3 system to give the traveling public specific information as to gas,  
4 food, or lodging available on a crossroad at or near an interchange.  
5 Specific information panels shall include the words "GAS," "FOOD," or  
6 "LODGING" and directional information and may contain one or more  
7 individual business signs maintained on the panel. Specific  
8 information panels are authorized within the corporate limits of cities  
9 and towns and areas zoned for commercial or industrial uses at  
10 locations where there is adequate distance between interchanges to  
11 ensure compliance with the provisions of Title 23 C.F.R. sec.  
12 655.307(a). The erection and maintenance of specific information  
13 panels shall conform to the national standards promulgated by the  
14 United States secretary of transportation pursuant to sections 131 and  
15 315 of Title 23, United States Code and rules adopted by the state  
16 department of transportation. A motorist service business located  
17 within one mile of a state highway shall not be permitted to display  
18 its name, brand, or trademark on a specific information panel unless  
19 its owner has first entered into an agreement with the department  
20 limiting the height of its on-premise signs at the site of its service  
21 installation to not more than fifteen feet higher than the roof of its  
22 main building. The department shall charge reasonable fees for the  
23 display of individual business signs to defray the costs of their  
24 installation and maintenance. In addition, businesses shall pay an  
25 annual fee of fifty dollars per mainline sign before an interchange to  
26 be deposited in the highway heritage account created in section 1 of  
27 this act. The restriction for on-premise signs shall not apply if the  
28 sign is not visible from the highway. The department may, on a case-  
29 by-case basis, waive the height restriction when an on-premise sign is  
30 visible from the rural interstate system.

31       **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.42.120 and 1984 c 7 s 232 are each amended to read  
32 as follows:

33       Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, no sign  
34 except a sign of type 1 or 2 or those type 3 signs that advertise  
35 activities conducted upon the properties where the signs are located,  
36 may be erected or maintained without a permit issued by the department.  
37 Application for a permit shall be made to the department on forms  
38 furnished by it. The forms shall contain a statement that the owner or

1 lessee of the land in question has consented thereto. The application  
2 shall be accompanied by a fee (~~of ten dollars~~) to be deposited with  
3 the state treasurer to the credit of the motor vehicle fund. Permits  
4 shall be for the calendar year and shall be renewed annually upon  
5 payment of this fee for the new year without the filing of a new  
6 application. The department shall set by rule the initial and renewal  
7 permit fees to defray administrative costs. In addition, businesses  
8 shall pay an annual fee of fifty dollars for each type 4 and type 5  
9 sign to be deposited in the highway heritage account created in section  
10 1 of this act. Fees shall not be prorated for fractions of the year.  
11 Advertising copy may be changed at any time without the payment of an  
12 additional fee. Assignment of permits in good standing is effective  
13 only upon receipt of written notice of assignment by the department.  
14 A permit may be revoked after hearing if the department finds that any  
15 statement made in the application was false or misleading, or that the  
16 sign covered is not in good general condition and in a reasonable state  
17 of repair, or is otherwise in violation of this chapter, if the false  
18 or misleading information has not been corrected and the sign has not  
19 been brought into compliance with this chapter within thirty days after  
20 written notification.

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