
SENATE BILL 5799

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Swecker, Fairley, Murray, and Shin

Read first time 02/02/09. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state capitol campus special height
2 district; adding a new section to chapter 35A.63 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the broad public
6 vista northward from the historic capitol campus, and the public view
7 of the state capitol from many points to the north of it, constitute a
8 vista of statewide and national historic significance.

9 The vista is an integral part of the design of the state capitol
10 campus. The state's founders sited the capitol campus in its location
11 principally to take advantage of this expansive vista. The vista is
12 representative of much of the physical characteristics of very large
13 areas of the state; it provides a visual and physical connection
14 between the capitol and Puget Sound; it inspires; and it promotes an
15 appreciation of the scenic grandeur and rich natural resources of our
16 state.

17 The city of Olympia was so named because of the spectacular vista
18 of the Olympic mountains from many locations in the city, including the
19 downtown, Budd Inlet, and capitol campus areas.

1 The vista is of national significance because it includes routes of
2 early exploring and mapping that contributed to this area becoming
3 incorporated into the United States of America rather than another
4 country. Within this vista, many historical events took place that
5 were significant for understanding of: Maritime history and early days
6 of Native American life; pioneer life; Washington territory; and the
7 state of Washington.

8 This state and national treasure has been passed down from one
9 generation to another. It includes public vistas of Budd Inlet, south
10 Puget Sound, the Olympic mountains, and a broad range of forested
11 hills.

12 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to take steps to
13 protect this state and national scenic and historic asset.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35A.63 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) A special height district is created to protect the scenic
17 beauty of the state capitol campus for the citizens of this state and
18 for out-of-state visitors.

19 (2) The state capitol campus special height district is located as
20 follows: The Olympia Isthmus--from the centerline of Water Street in
21 Olympia proceeding west to the shoreline of the Deschutes spillway
22 bounded by Capitol Lake shoreline and Budd Inlet shoreline.

23 (3) The maximum allowable height for a new or remodeled building or
24 structure located within the state capitol campus special height
25 district is thirty-five feet.

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