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HOUSE BILL 1512

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Romero, Chandler, Patterson, Quall, Tokuda, D. Schmidt, Skinner, Chopp, Elliot, Johnson, Ogden, Scott, Blanton, Brown, Hatfield, R. Fisher, Basich, Sheldon, Appelwick, Dellwo, Wolfe, Rust, Regala, Chappell, Kremen, Dickerson, Kessler, Costa, Poulsen and Cody

Read first time 01/27/95. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to adopt-a-highway programs; and amending RCW  
2 47.40.100.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.40.100 and 1990 c 258 s 5 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department of transportation shall establish a state-wide  
7 adopt-a-highway (~~((litter—control))~~) program (~~((whereby—volunteer  
8 organizations may contribute to a cleaner environment and a more  
9 attractive state by adopting sections of state highway and picking up  
10 litter along those sections))~~). The purpose of the program is to  
11 provide volunteers and businesses an opportunity to contribute to a  
12 cleaner environment, enhanced roadsides, and protection of wildlife  
13 habitats. Participating volunteers and businesses shall adopt  
14 department-designated sections of state highways, rest areas, park and  
15 ride lots, intermodal facilities, and any other facilities the  
16 department deems appropriate, in accordance with rules adopted by the  
17 department. The department may elect to coordinate a consortium of  
18 participants for adopt-a-highway projects.

1       The adopt-a-highway program shall include, at a minimum, litter  
2 control for the adopted section, and may include additional  
3 responsibilities such as planting and maintaining vegetation,  
4 controlling weeds, graffiti removal, and any other roadside improvement  
5 or clean-up activities the department deems appropriate. The  
6 department shall not accept adopt-a-highway proposals that would have  
7 the effect of terminating classified employees or classified employee  
8 positions.

9       (2) A volunteer group or business choosing to participate in the  
10 adopt-a-highway program must submit a proposal to the department. The  
11 department shall review the proposal for consistency with departmental  
12 policy and rules. The department may accept, reject, or modify an  
13 applicant's proposal.

14       (3) The department shall seek partnerships with volunteer groups  
15 and businesses to facilitate the goals of this section. The department  
16 may solicit funding for the adopt-a-highway program that allows private  
17 entities to undertake all or a portion of financing for the  
18 initiatives. The department shall develop guidelines regarding the  
19 cash, labor, and in-kind contributions to be performed by the  
20 participants.

21       (4) An organization whose name: (a) Endorses or opposes a  
22 particular candidate for public office, (b) advocates a position on a  
23 specific political issue, initiative, referendum, or piece of  
24 legislation, or (c) includes a reference to a political party shall not  
25 be eligible to participate in the adopt-a-highway program.

26       ~~((+2))~~ (5) In administering the adopt-a-highway program, the  
27 department shall:

28       (a) Provide a standardized application form, registration form, and  
29 contractual agreement for all ~~((volunteer))~~ participating groups.  
30 ~~((Such))~~ The forms shall notify the prospective participants of the  
31 risks and responsibilities to be assumed by ~~((either))~~ the department  
32 ~~((and/or the volunteer groups))~~ and the participants;

33       (b) Require all ~~((volunteers))~~ participants to be at least fifteen  
34 years of age;

35       (c) Require parental consent for all minors;

36       (d) Require at least one ~~((volunteer))~~ adult supervisor for every  
37 eight minors;

1 (e) Require one designated leader for each ~~((volunteer))~~  
2 participating organization, unless the department chooses to coordinate  
3 a consortium of participants;

4 (f) Assign each ~~((volunteer))~~ participating organization a section  
5 or sections of state highway, or other state-owned transportation  
6 facilities, for a specified period of time;

7 (g) Recognize the efforts of a participating organization by  
8 erecting and maintaining signs with the organization's name on both  
9 ends of the organization's section of highway;

10 (h) Provide appropriate safety equipment ~~((and "Volunteer Litter~~  
11 ~~Crew Ahead" signs)). Safety equipment~~~~((, other than hardhats,))~~ issued  
12 to ~~((volunteer organizations))~~ participating groups must be returned to  
13 the department ~~((after each use for reuse by other volunteer groups))~~  
14 upon termination of the applicable adopt-a-highway agreement;

15 (i) Provide safety training for all ~~((volunteers))~~ participants;

16 (j) Pay any and all premiums or assessments required under RCW  
17 51.12.035 to secure medical aid benefits under chapter 51.36 RCW for  
18 all volunteers participating in the program;

19 (k) Require participating businesses to pay all premiums or  
20 assessments required to secure medical aid benefits under chapter 51.36  
21 RCW for all employees or agents participating in the program;

22 (l) Maintain records of all injuries and accidents that occur;

23 ~~((l))~~ (m) Adopt rules ~~((which))~~ that establish a process to  
24 resolve any question of an organization's eligibility to participate in  
25 the adopt-a-highway program;

26 ~~((m))~~ (n) Obtain permission from property owners who lease right  
27 of way before allowing ~~((a volunteer))~~ an organization to adopt a  
28 section of highway on such leased property; and

29 ~~((n))~~ (o) Establish procedures and guidelines for the adopt-a-  
30 highway program.

31 ~~((3))~~ (6) Nothing in this section affects the rights or  
32 activities of, or agreements with, adjacent landowners, including the  
33 use of rights of way and crossings, nor impairs these rights and uses  
34 by the placement of signs.

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