
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5970

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senators Schow, Horn, Bauer, Heavey, Franklin and Anderson)

Read first time 03/05/97.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to expanding days of sale while not changing days
- 2 of use of common fireworks and clarifying other provisions of the
- 3 existing state fireworks law; amending RCW 70.77.160, 70.77.170,
- 4 70.77.180, 70.77.236, 70.77.255, 70.77.270, 70.77.290, 70.77.325,
- 5 70.77.343, 70.77.345, 70.77.355, 70.77.360, 70.77.375, 70.77.395,
- 6 70.77.420, 70.77.425, 70.77.435, 70.77.440, 70.77.450, and 70.77.555;
- 7 reenacting and amending RCW 70.77.250; reenacting RCW 70.77.315 and
- 8 70.77.455; adding a new section to chapter 70.77 RCW; repealing 1995 c
- 9 369 s 56; prescribing penalties; and declaring an emergency.
- 10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 11 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.77.160 and 1982 c 230 s 6 are each amended to read
- 12 as follows:
- 13 "Public display of fireworks" means an entertainment feature where
- 14 the public is admitted or ((permitted)) allowed to view the display or
- 15 discharge of special fireworks.
- 16 Sec. 2. RCW 70.77.170 and 1995 c 369 s 44 are each amended to read
- 17 as follows:

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- 1 "License" means a ((nontransferable)) transferable formal
- 2 authorization which the chief of the Washington state patrol and the
- 3 director of fire protection are ((permitted)) authorized to issue under
- 4 this chapter to engage in the act specifically designated therein.
- 5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.77.180 and 1995 c 61 s 9 are each amended to read 6 as follows:
- 7 "Permit" means the official ((permission)) transferable
- 8 <u>authorization</u> granted by a ((local public agency)) <u>city or county</u> for
- 9 the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place within the
- 10 jurisdiction of the ((local agency)) <u>city or county</u> where fireworks are
- 11 manufactured, constructed, produced, packaged, stored, sold, or
- 12 exchanged and the official ((permission)) authorization granted by a
- 13 ((local agency)) city or county for a public display of fireworks.
- 14 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.77.236 and 1995 c 61 s 6 are each amended to read 15 as follows:
- 16 (1) "New fireworks item" means any fireworks initially classified
- 17 or reclassified as special or common fireworks by the United States
- 18 bureau of explosives or in the regulations of the United States
- 19 department of transportation after April 17, 1995.
- 20 (2) The ((director of community, trade, and economic development))
- 21 chief of the Washington state patrol through the director of fire
- 22 protection shall classify any new fireworks item in the same manner as
- 23 the item is classified by the United States bureau of explosives or in
- 24 the regulations of the United States department of transportation,
- 25 unless the ((director of community, trade, and economic development))
- 26 chief of the Washington state patrol through the director of fire
- 27 protection determines, stating reasonable grounds, that the item should
- 28 not be so classified.
- 29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.77.250 and 1995 c 369 s 45 and 1995 c 61 s 12 are
- 30 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- 31 (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director
- 32 of fire protection, shall enforce and administer this chapter.
- 33 (2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director
- 34 of fire protection, shall appoint such deputies and employees as may be
- 35 necessary and required to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

- 1 (3) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director 2 of fire protection, ((may prescribe such)) shall adopt those rules 3 relating to fireworks as ((may be)) are necessary for the 4 implementation of this chapter.
- (4) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall ((prescribe such)) adopt those rules as ((may be)) are necessary to ensure state-wide minimum standards for the enforcement of this chapter. Counties, cities, and towns shall comply with ((such)) these state rules. Any local rules adopted by local authorities that are more restrictive than state law shall have an effective date no sooner than one year after their adoption.
- 12 (5) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director 13 of fire protection, may exercise the necessary police powers to enforce 14 the criminal provisions of this chapter. This grant of police powers 15 does not prevent any other state agency or local government agency 16 having general law enforcement powers from enforcing this chapter 17 within the jurisdiction of the agency or local government.
- 18 **Sec. 6.** RCW 70.77.255 and 1995 c 61 s 13 are each amended to read 19 as follows:
- 20 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person, 21 without ((an)) appropriate state ((license or permit)) licenses and 22 city or county permits as required by this chapter may:
- 23 (a) Manufacture, import, possess, or sell any fireworks at 24 wholesale or retail for any use;
- 25 (b) Make a public display of fireworks; ((or))
- 26 (c) Transport fireworks, except as a public carrier delivering to 27 a licensee; or
- 28 (d) Knowingly manufacture, import, transport, store, sell, or 29 possess with intent to sell, as fireworks, explosives, as defined under 30 RCW 70.74.010, that are not fireworks, as defined under this chapter.
- (2) Except as authorized by a license and permit under subsection (1)(b) of this section or as provided in RCW 70.77.311, no person may discharge special fireworks at any place.
- 34 (3) No person less than eighteen years of age may apply for or 35 receive a license or permit under this chapter.
- 36 (4) No license or permit is required for the possession or use of 37 common fireworks lawfully purchased at retail.

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- NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 70.77 RCW to read as follows:
- 3 (1) A violation of RCW 70.77.255(1)(d) is a gross misdemeanor 4 punishable by not less than thirty days in jail and a fine of not less 5 than five thousand dollars.
- 6 (2) The minimum sentences required under subsection (1) of this 7 section may not be suspended or deferred.
- 8 Sec. 8. RCW 70.77.270 and 1995 c 61 s 14 are each amended to read 9 as follows:
- (1) The governing body of a city or county, or a designee, shall 10 grant an application for a permit under RCW 70.77.260(1) if the 11 12 application meets the standards under this chapter, and the applicable ordinances of the city or county. The permit shall be granted by June 13 14 10, or no less than thirty days after receipt of an application whichever date occurs first, for sales commencing on June 28 and on 15 December 27; or by December 10, or no less than thirty days after 16 receipt of an application whichever date occurs first, for sales 17
 - (2) The ((director of community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall prescribe uniform, state-wide standards for retail fireworks stands including, but not limited to, the location of the stands, setback requirements and siting of the stands, types of buildings and construction material that may be used for the stands, use of the stands and areas around the stands, cleanup of the area around the stands, transportation of fireworks to and from the stands, and temporary storage of fireworks associated with the retail fireworks stands. All cities and counties which allow retail fireworks sales shall comply with these standards.
- 30 (3) No retail fireworks permit may be issued to any applicant unless the retail fireworks stand is covered by a liability insurance 31 policy with coverage of not less than fifty thousand dollars and five 32 hundred thousand dollars for bodily injury liability for each person 33 34 and occurrence, respectively, and not less than fifty thousand dollars for property damage liability for each occurrence, unless such 35 36 insurance is not readily available from at least three approved insurance companies. If insurance in this amount is not offered, each 37 38 fireworks permit shall be covered by a liability insurance policy in

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commencing only on December 27.

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- 1 the maximum amount offered by at least three different approved
- 2 insurance companies.
- 3 No wholesaler may knowingly sell or supply fireworks to any retail
- 4 fireworks stand unless the wholesaler determines that the retail
- 5 fireworks stand is covered by liability insurance in the same amount as
- 6 provided in this subsection.
- 7 Sec. 9. RCW 70.77.290 and 1984 c 249 s 16 are each amended to read
- 8 as follows:
- 9 If a permit under RCW 70.77.260(2) for the public display of
- 10 fireworks is granted, the sale, possession and use of fireworks for the
- 11 public display is lawful for that purpose only. ((The permit granted
- 12 is not transferable.))
- 13 Sec. 10. RCW 70.77.315 and 1995 c 61 s 18 and 1995 c 369 s 47 are
- 14 each reenacted to read as follows:
- 15 Any person who desires to engage in the manufacture, importation,
- 16 sale, or use of fireworks, except use as provided in RCW 70.77.255(4)
- 17 and 70.77.311, shall make a written application to the chief of the
- 18 Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, on
- 19 forms provided by him or her. Such application shall be accompanied by
- 20 the annual license fee as prescribed in this chapter.
- 21 **Sec. 11.** RCW 70.77.325 and 1994 c 133 s 8 are each amended to read
- 22 as follows:
- 23 (1) An application for a license shall be made annually by every
- 24 person holding an existing license who wishes to continue the activity
- 25 requiring the license during an additional ((calendar)) year. The
- 26 application shall be accompanied by the annual license fees as
- 27 prescribed in RCW 70.77.343 and 70.77.340.
- 28 (2) A person applying for an annual license as a retailer under
- 29 this chapter shall file an application ((by June 10 of the current
- 30 year)) no later than May 1 for annual sales commencing on June 28 and
- 31 on December 27, or no later than November 1 for sales commencing only
- 32 <u>on December 27</u>. The ((director of community, trade, and economic
- 33 development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the
- 34 director of fire protection, shall grant or deny the license within
- 35 fifteen days of receipt of the application.

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- 1 (3) A person applying for an annual license as a manufacturer,
- 2 importer, or wholesaler under this chapter shall file an application by
- 3 January 31 of the current year. The ((director of community, trade,
- 4 and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol,
- 5 through the director of fire protection, shall grant or deny the
- 6 license within ninety days of receipt of the application.
- 7 **Sec. 12.** RCW 70.77.343 and 1995 c 61 s 19 are each amended to read
- 8 as follows:
- 9 (1) License fees, in addition to the fees in RCW 70.77.340, shall
- 10 be charged as follows:
- 11 1,500.00 12 900.00 13 1,000.00 30.00 14 Retailer (for each separate outlet) 15 Public display for special fireworks 40.00 16 Pyrotechnic operator for special fireworks 5.00
- 17 (2) All receipts from the license fees in this section shall be 18 placed in the fire services trust fund and at least seventy-five percent of these receipts shall be used to fund a state-wide public 19 education campaign developed by the ((department)) chief of the 20 Washington state patrol and the licensed fireworks industry emphasizing 21 22 the safe and responsible use of legal fireworks and the remaining 23 receipts shall be used to fund state-wide enforcement efforts against 24 the sale and use of fireworks that are illegal under this chapter.
- 25 **Sec. 13.** RCW 70.77.345 and 1995 c 61 s 20 are each amended to read 26 as follows:
- 27 Every license <u>and every retail fireworks sales permit</u> issued shall
- 28 be for the ((calendar year)) period from January 1st ((to December 31st
- 29 or for)) of the year for which the application is made through January
- 30 <u>31st of the subsequent year, or</u> the remaining portion thereof ((of the
- 31 calendar year for which the license application is made)).
- 32 **Sec. 14.** RCW 70.77.355 and 1994 c 133 s 9 are each amended to read 33 as follows:
- 34 (1) Any adult person may secure a general license from the
- 35 ((director of community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the

Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, for 1 the public display of fireworks within the state of Washington. 2 general license is subject to the provisions of this chapter relative 3 4 to the securing of local permits for the public display of fireworks in any city or county, except that in lieu of filing the bond or 5 certificate of public liability insurance with the appropriate local 6 7 official under RCW 70.77.260 as required in RCW 70.77.285, the same 8 bond or certificate shall be filed with the ((director of community, 9 trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, 10 through the director of fire protection. The bond or certificate of insurance for a general license in addition shall provide that: (a) 11 The insurer will not cancel the insured's coverage without fifteen days 12 prior written notice to the ((director of community, trade, and 13 economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through 14 15 the director of fire protection; (b) the duly licensed pyrotechnic 16 operator required by law to supervise and discharge the public display, acting either as an employee of the insured or as an independent 17 contractor and the state of Washington, its officers, agents, 18 19 employees, and servants are included as additional insureds, but only 20 insofar as any operations under contract are concerned; and (c) the state is not responsible for any premium or assessments on the policy. 21 22 (2) The ((director of community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire 23 24 protection, may issue such general licenses. The holder of a general 25 license shall file a certificate from the ((director of community, 26 trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, evidencing the license with 27 28 any application for a local permit for the public display of fireworks

30 **Sec. 15.** RCW 70.77.360 and 1995 c 369 s 49 are each amended to 31 read as follows:

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under RCW 70.77.260.

If the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, finds that an application for any license, or any transfer of a license, under this chapter contains a material misrepresentation or that the granting of any license would be contrary to the public safety or welfare, the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may deny the application for, or the transfer of, the license.

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- 1 **Sec. 16.** RCW 70.77.375 and 1995 c 61 s 21 are each amended to read 2 as follows:
- The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, upon reasonable opportunity to be heard, may revoke any license issued pursuant to this chapter, if he or she finds that:
- (1) The licensee has violated any provisions of this chapter or any rule ((or regulations)) made by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, under and with the authority of this chapter;
- 10 (2) The licensee has created or caused a fire nuisance;
- 11 (3) Any licensee has failed or refused to file any required 12 reports; or
- 13 (4) Any fact or condition exists which, if it had existed at the 14 time of the original application for such license, reasonably would 15 have warranted the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the 16 director of fire protection, in refusing originally to issue such 17 license.
- 18 **Sec. 17.** RCW 70.77.395 and 1995 c 61 s 22 are each amended to read 19 as follows:
- (1) It is legal to sell((-,)) and purchase((-, use, and discharge))
 common fireworks within this state from ((twelve)) nine o'clock
 ((noon)) a.m. on the twenty-eighth of June to twelve o'clock noon on
 the sixth of July of each year, from nine o'clock a.m. on the twentyseventh of December to eleven o'clock p.m. on the thirty-first of
 December of each year and as provided in RCW 70.77.311. ((However, no))
- (2) Common fireworks may be ((sold)) used or discharged each day 27 between the hours of nine o'clock a.m. and eleven o'clock p.m. ((and 28 29 nine o'clock a.m.)) on the twenty-eighth of June to the sixth of July, 30 ((except)) and on July 4th ((from)) between the hours of nine o'clock a.m. ((through)) and twelve o'clock midnight, and ((except)) from six 31 32 o'clock p.m. on December 31st until one o'clock a.m. on January 1st of the subsequent year and as provided in RCW 70.77.311: PROVIDED, That 33 34 a city or county may prohibit the sale or discharge of common fireworks on December 31, 1995, by enacting an ordinance prohibiting such sale or 35 36 discharge within sixty days of April 17, 1995.

- 1 Sec. 18. RCW 70.77.420 and 1984 c 249 s 26 are each amended to 2 read as follows:
- 3 (1) It is unlawful for any person to store fireworks of any class 4 without a permit for such storage from the ((local fire official in the 5 jurisdiction)) city or county in which the storage is to be made. A person proposing to store fireworks shall apply in writing to a ((local 6 7 fire official)) city or county at least ten days prior to the date of 8 the proposed storage. The ((official)) city or county receiving the 9 application for a storage permit shall investigate whether the character and location of the storage as proposed would constitute a 10 11 hazard to property or be dangerous to any person. investigation, the ((official)) city or county may grant or deny the 12
- 15 (2) For the purposes of this section the temporary storing or keeping of common fireworks when in conjunction with a valid retail 16 sales license and permit shall comply with RCW 70.77.425 and the 17 18 standards adopted under RCW 70.77.270(2) and not this section.

The ((official)) city or county may place reasonable

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application.

conditions on any permit granted.

- 19 **Sec. 19.** RCW 70.77.425 and 1984 c 249 s 27 are each amended to read as follows: 20
- It is unlawful for any person to store ((unsold)) stocks of 21 22 fireworks remaining unsold after the lawful period of sale as provided 23 in the person's permit except in such places of storage as the ((local 24 fire official)) city or county issuing the permit approves. 25 stocks of common fireworks remaining after the authorized retail sales period from ((twelve)) nine o'clock ((noon)) a.m. on June 28th to 26 twelve o'clock noon on July 6th shall be returned on or before July 27 31st of the same year, or remaining after the authorized retail sales 28 29 period from nine o'clock a.m. on December 27th to eleven o'clock p.m. on December 31st shall be returned on or before January 10th of the 30 subsequent year to the approved storage facilities of a licensed 31 32 fireworks wholesaler, to a magazine or storage place approved by a local fire official.
- Sec. 20. RCW 70.77.435 and 1995 c 61 s 23 are each amended to read 34 35 as follows:
- 36 Any fireworks which are illegally sold, offered for sale, used, 37 discharged, possessed or transported in violation of the provisions of

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this chapter or the rules or regulations of the ((director of 1 community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington 2 3 state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall be subject 4 to seizure by the ((director of community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the 5 director of fire protection, or his or her deputy, or by state agencies 6 7 or local governments having general law enforcement authority. 8 fireworks seized by legal process anywhere in the state may be disposed 9 of by the ((director of community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire 10 protection, or the agency conducting the seizure, by 11 destruction at any time subsequent to thirty days from such seizure or 12 13 ten days from the final termination of proceedings under the provisions of RCW 70.77.440, whichever is later. 14

- 15 **Sec. 21.** RCW 70.77.440 and 1995 c 61 s 24 are each amended to read 16 as follows:
- (1) In the event of seizure under RCW 70.77.435, proceedings for 17 18 forfeiture shall be deemed commenced by the seizure. The ((director of 19 community, trade, and economic development or deputy director of community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington 20 state patrol or a designee, through the director of fire protection or 21 the agency conducting the seizure, under whose authority the seizure 22 23 was made shall cause notice to be served within fifteen days following 24 the seizure on the owner of the fireworks seized and the person in 25 charge thereof and any person having any known right or interest therein, of the seizure and intended forfeiture of the seized property. 26 27 The notice may be served by any method authorized by law or court rule including but not limited to service by certified mail with return 28 29 receipt requested. Service by mail shall be deemed complete upon mailing within the fifteen-day period following the seizure. 30
 - (2) If no person notifies the ((director of community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or the agency conducting the seizure, in writing of the person's claim of lawful ownership or right to lawful possession of seized fireworks within thirty days of the seizure, the seized fireworks shall be deemed forfeited.
- 37 (3) If any person notifies the ((director of community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through

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the director of fire protection or the agency conducting the seizure, 1 2 in writing of the person's claim of lawful ownership or possession of the fireworks within thirty days of the seizure, the person or persons 3 4 shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard as to the claim 5 The hearing shall be before an administrative law judge appointed under chapter 34.12 RCW, except that any person asserting a 6 7 claim or right may remove the matter to a court of competent 8 jurisdiction if the aggregate value of the seized fireworks is more 9 than five hundred dollars. The hearing before an administrative law 10 judge and any appeal therefrom shall be under Title 34 RCW. In a court hearing between two or more claimants to the article or articles 11 involved, the prevailing party shall be entitled to a judgment for 12 costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. The burden of producing evidence 13 shall be upon the person claiming to have the lawful right to 14 15 possession of the seized fireworks. The ((director of community, 16 trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, 17 through the director of fire protection or the agency conducting the seizure, shall promptly return the fireworks to the claimant upon a 18 19 determination by the administrative law judge or court that the 20 claimant is lawfully entitled to possession of the fireworks.

- (4) When fireworks are forfeited under this chapter the ((director of community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or the agency conducting the seizure, may:
 - (a) Dispose of the fireworks by summary destruction; or

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(b) Sell the forfeited fireworks and chemicals used to make fireworks, that are legal for use and possession under this chapter, to wholesalers or manufacturers, authorized to possess and use such fireworks or chemicals under a license issued by the ((director of community, trade, and economic development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. Sale shall be by public auction after publishing a notice of the date, place, and time of the auction in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the auction is to be held, at least three days before the date of the auction. The proceeds of the sale of the seized fireworks under this section may be retained by the agency conducting the seizure and used to offset the costs of seizure and/or storage costs of the seized fireworks. The remaining proceeds, if any, shall be deposited in the

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- 1 fire services trust fund and shall be used for the same purposes and in
- 2 the same percentages as specified in RCW 70.77.343.
- 3 **Sec. 22.** RCW 70.77.450 and 1994 c 133 s 13 are each amended to 4 read as follows:
- 5 The ((director of community, trade, and economic development))
- 6 chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire
- 7 protection, may make an examination of the books and records of any
- 8 licensee, or other person relative to fireworks, and may visit and
- 9 inspect the premises of any licensee he may deem at any time necessary
- 10 for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter. The
- 11 licensee, owner, lessee, manager, or operator of any such building or
- 12 premises shall permit the ((director of community, trade, and economic
- 13 development)) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the
- 14 director of fire protection, his or her deputies or salaried
- 15 assistants, the local fire official, and their authorized
- 16 representatives to enter and inspect the premises at the time and for
- 17 the purpose stated in this section.
- 18 Sec. 23. RCW 70.77.455 and 1995 c 61 s 25 and 1995 c 369 s 54 are
- 19 each reenacted to read as follows:
- 20 (1) All licensees shall maintain and make available to the chief of
- 21 the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection,
- 22 full and complete records showing all production, imports, exports,
- 23 purchases, and sales of fireworks items by class.
- 24 (2) All records obtained and all reports produced, as required by
- 25 this chapter, are not subject to disclosure through the public
- 26 disclosure act under chapter 42.17 RCW.
- 27 **Sec. 24.** RCW 70.77.555 and 1995 c 61 s 26 are each amended to read
- 28 as follows:
- 29 <u>(1)</u> A ((local public)) <u>city or county</u> agency may provide by
- 30 ordinance for a fee for retail sales in an amount sufficient to cover
- 31 all legitimate costs for all needed permits and local licenses from
- 32 application to and through processing, issuance, and inspection, but in
- 33 no case to exceed <u>a total of</u> one hundred dollars for any one year <u>for</u>
- 34 <u>initial permitting and a maximum of ten dollars for any one year for</u>
- 35 any change in permit holder or location of the retail fireworks stand.

- Even though business, environmental impact, inspection, and all 1 other required costs, fees, local licenses, and permits are not 2 directly related to fireworks permits, fees, costs, and local licenses 3 4 on their face; when these fees, costs, local licenses, and permits are necessary to the use and operation of the fireworks permits and local 5 licenses such as, but not limited to, business, environmental impact, 6 7 and inspection; they are included as part and parcel of the annual maximum fees, under subsection (1) of this section, that cover costs 8 9 for the fireworks permits and local licenses.
- (2) A city or county may provide by ordinance for a fee for public display permits as required by RCW 70.77.255(1)(b) not to exceed one hundred dollars for any one permit.
- (3) Any special event fees required by a city or county in connection with a fireworks display that requires traffic or crowd control in a public place shall not be subject to the limitation provided in subsection (2) of this section.
- 17 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 25.** 1995 c 369 s 56 is repealed.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 26. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 27. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

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