
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6592

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Holy, Hunt, Takko, and Keiser)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to tourism authorities; and amending RCW
2 35.101.010, 35.101.050, and 35.101.130.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35.101.010 and 2015 c 131 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
7 this section apply throughout this chapter.

8 (1) "Area" means a tourism promotion area.

9 (2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,
10 "legislative authority" means the legislative authority of any county
11 (~~with a population greater than forty thousand~~), or of any city or
12 town within such a county, including unclassified cities or towns
13 operating under special charters.

14 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, in any county
15 with a population of one million or more, "legislative authority"
16 means two or more jurisdictions acting jointly as the legislative
17 authority under an interlocal agreement created under chapter 39.34
18 RCW for the joint establishment and operation of a tourism promotion
19 area.

20 (c) For a city incorporated after January 1990, with a population
21 greater than eighty-nine thousand, and located in a county described

1 in (b) of this subsection, "legislative authority" means the city's
2 legislative authority.

3 (3) "Lodging business" means a person that furnishes lodging
4 taxable by the state under chapter 82.08 RCW that has forty or more
5 lodging units.

6 (4) "Tourism promotion" means activities and expenditures
7 designed to increase tourism and convention business, including but
8 not limited to advertising, publicizing, or otherwise distributing
9 information for the purpose of attracting and welcoming tourists, and
10 operating tourism destination marketing organizations.

11 (5) "Tourist" means a person who travels for business or pleasure
12 on a trip:

13 (a) Away from the person's place of residence or business and
14 stays overnight in paid accommodations;

15 (b) To a place at least fifty miles away one way by driving
16 distance from the person's place of residence or business for the day
17 or stays overnight. However, island communities without land access
18 are exempt from the mileage requirement under this subsection (5)(b);
19 or

20 (c) To another country or state outside of the person's place of
21 residence or business.

22 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.101.050 and 2003 c 148 s 5 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 A legislative authority may impose a charge on the furnishing of
25 lodging by a lodging business located in the area.

26 (1) There shall not be more than six classifications upon which a
27 charge can be imposed.

28 (2) Classifications can be based upon the number of rooms, room
29 revenue, or location within the area.

30 (3) Each classification may have its own rate, which shall be
31 expressed in terms of nights of stay.

32 (4) In no case may the rate under this section be in excess of
33 ~~((two))~~ five dollars per night of stay.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35.101.130 and 2003 c 148 s 13 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 (1) The legislative authority imposing the charge shall have sole
37 discretion as to how the revenue derived from the charge is to be
38 used to promote tourism that increases the number of tourists to the

1 area. However, the legislative authority may appoint existing
2 advisory boards or commissions to make recommendations as to its use,
3 or the legislative authority may create a new advisory board or
4 commission for (~~the [that]~~) that purpose.

5 (2) The legislative authority may contract with tourism
6 destination marketing organizations or other similar organizations to
7 administer the operation of the area, so long as the administration
8 complies with all applicable provisions of law, including this
9 chapter, and with all county, city, or town resolutions and
10 ordinances, and with all regulations lawfully imposed by the state
11 auditor or other state agencies.

12 (3) If a majority of those lodging businesses assessed the
13 charges imposed under RCW 35.101.050 petition in writing to the
14 legislative authority that the charge be removed, the legislative
15 authority must remove the charge.

16 (4) Any legislative authority with a charge in place under RCW
17 35.101.050 as of January 1, 2020, shall not have the charge be
18 amended as provided under subsection (3) of this section unless the
19 legislative authority has adopted an increase to the charge as
20 authorized in RCW 35.101.050(4).

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