

6026-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senator West)

Brief Description: Authorizing special assessments to fund convention and trade promotion. Revised for 1st Substitute: Authorizing special assessments to fund convention and tourism promotion. (REVISED FOR PASSED LEGISLATURE: Authorizing a lodging charge to fund tourism promotion.)

SB 6026-S.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Provides that: (1) "Area" means a tourism promotion area;

(2) "Legislative authority" means the legislative authority of any county with a population greater than forty thousand but less than one million, or of any city or town within such a county, including unclassified cities or towns operating under special charters;

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

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

Provides that, for the purpose of establishing a tourism promotion area, an initiation petition must be presented to the legislative authority having jurisdiction of the area in which the proposed tourism promotion area is to be located. The initiation petition must include the following: (1) A description of the boundaries of the proposed area;

(2) The proposed uses and projects to which the proposed revenue from the charge shall be put and the total estimated costs;

(3) The estimated rate for the charge with a proposed breakdown by class of lodging business if such classification is to be used; and

(4) The signatures of the persons who operate lodging businesses in the proposed area who would pay sixty percent or more of the proposed charges.

Provides that a legislative authority may impose a charge on the furnishing of lodging by a lodging business located in the area.

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

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

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

(4) In no case may the rate under this act be in excess of two dollars per night of stay.

Declares that the charges imposed under this act are not a tax

on the "sale of lodging" for the purposes of RCW 82.14.410.

Provides that the legislative authority imposing the charge shall have sole discretion as to how the revenue derived from the charge is to be used to promote tourism.