

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 5849

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning electric vehicle charging stations.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Tom, Frockt, Keiser, Hatfield and Kline).

Senate Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Transportation

Background: Electric vehicles operate, either partially or exclusively, on electrical energy from the grid or an off-board source that is stored on-board for motive purposes. Some electric vehicles are equipped to recharge the battery by connecting to the power grid. In 2009, the Legislature passed a bill that required all cities and counties statewide to allow motor vehicle battery charging stations as a use in all zones, except residential, resource, or critical areas. Additionally, the 2009 legislation directed the Puget Sound Regional Council and the Department of Commerce to develop guidance for local governments regarding the development of an electric vehicle charging network. According to the Municipal Research Services Center, 16 local governments have adopted ordinances related to electric vehicle charging.

The West Coast Electric Highway initiative has developed over the past couple of years. It is a network of electric vehicle fast-charging stations located every 25 to 50 miles along Interstate 5 and other major roadways and stretches from the Canadian border to the Mexican border. There are 12 stations in Washington that are associated with the West Coast Electric Highway. Additionally, there are also electric vehicle charging stations provided by both public and private entities throughout Washington that are not part of the West Coast Electric Highway initiative.

The Washington State Department of Transportation periodically adopts the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), published by the Federal Highway Safety Administration. MUTCD provides guidance on a variety of traffic control devices to state and local traffic engineers. MUTCD contains a standard sign for use by governments to indicate the location of an electric vehicle charging station.

Summary: Electric vehicle charging station is defined as a public or private parking space that is served by charging equipment that has as its primary purpose the transfer of electric energy to a battery or other energy storage device in an electric vehicle.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Electric vehicle charging stations must be indicated by vertical signage identifying the space as an electric vehicle charging station, indicating that parking is only for electric vehicles that are charging. The sign must be consistent with MUTCD. The parking space must also be indicated by green pavement markings.

It is a parking infraction with a penalty of \$124 for any person to park a vehicle in an electric vehicle charging station if the vehicle is not connected to the charging equipment. The parking infraction applies to both public and private electric vehicle charging stations.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	43	6
House	84	12

Effective: July 28, 2013.