
SENATE BILL 5720

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Patterson, Vognild and Nelson; by request of Department of Transportation.

Read first time February 18, 1991. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to motorist information signs; amending RCW
2 47.42.020; adding a new section to chapter 47.36 RCW; and recodifying
3 RCW 47.42.046, 47.42.047, 47.42.0475, 47.42.052, 47.42.160, and
4 47.42.170.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.42.020 and 1990 c 258 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this
9 chapter.

10 (1) "Department" means the Washington state department of
11 transportation.

12 (2) "Erect" means to construct, build, raise, assemble, place,
13 affix, attach, create, paint, draw, or in any other way bring into
14 being or establish.

1 (3) "Interstate system" means any state highway which is or does
2 become part of the national system of interstate and defense highways
3 as described in section 103(d) of title 23, United States Code.

4 (4) "Maintain" means to allow to exist.

5 (5) "Person" means this state or any public or private corporation,
6 firm, partnership, association, as well as any individual or
7 individuals.

8 (6) "Primary system" means any state highway which is or does
9 become part of the federal-aid primary system as described in section
10 103(b) of title 23, United States Code.

11 (7) "Scenic system" means (a) any state highway within any public
12 park, federal forest area, public beach, public recreation area, or
13 national monument, (b) any state highway or portion thereof outside the
14 boundaries of any incorporated city or town designated by the
15 legislature as a part of the scenic system, or (c) any state highway or
16 portion thereof outside the boundaries of any incorporated city or town
17 designated by the legislature as a part of the scenic and recreational
18 highway system except for the sections of highways specifically
19 excluded in RCW 47.42.025.

20 (8) "Sign" means any outdoor sign, display, device, figure,
21 painting, drawing, message, placard, poster, billboard, or other thing
22 that is designed, intended, or used to advertise or inform, any part of
23 the advertising or informative contents of which is visible from any
24 place on the main-traveled way of the interstate system or other state
25 highway.

26 (9) "Commercial and industrial areas" means any area zoned
27 commercial or industrial by a county or municipal code, or if unzoned
28 by a county or municipal code, that area occupied by three or more
29 separate and distinct commercial or industrial activities, or any
30 combination thereof, within a space of five hundred feet and the area

1 within five hundred feet of such activities on both sides of the
2 highway. The area shall be measured from the outer edges of the
3 regularly used buildings, parking lots, or storage or processing areas
4 of the commercial or industrial activity and not from the property
5 lines of the parcels upon which the activities are located.
6 Measurements shall be along or parallel to the edge of the main
7 traveled way of the highway. The following shall not be considered
8 commercial or industrial activities:

9 (a) Agricultural, forestry, grazing, farming, and related
10 activities, including, but not limited to, wayside fresh produce
11 stands;

12 (b) Transient or temporary activities;

13 (c) Railroad tracks and minor sidings;

14 (d) Signs;

15 (e) Activities more than six hundred and sixty feet from the
16 nearest edge of the right of way;

17 (f) Activities conducted in a building principally used as a
18 residence.

19 If any commercial or industrial activity that has been used in defining
20 or delineating an unzoned area ceases to operate for a period of six
21 continuous months, any signs located within the former unzoned area
22 become nonconforming and shall not be maintained by any person.

23 (10) (~~"Specific information panel" means a panel, rectangular in~~
24 ~~shape, located in the same manner as other official traffic signs~~
25 ~~readable from the main traveled ways, and consisting of:~~

26 ~~(a) The words "GAS," "FOOD," or "LODGING" and directional~~
27 ~~information; and~~

28 ~~(b) One or more individual business signs mounted on the panel.~~

29 ~~(11) "Business sign" means a separately attached sign mounted on~~
30 ~~the specific information panel or roadside area information panel to~~

1 show the brand or trademark and name, or both, of the motorist service
2 available on the crossroad at or near the interchange. Nationally,
3 regionally, or locally known commercial symbols or trademarks for
4 service stations, restaurants, and motels shall be used when
5 applicable. The brand or trademark identification symbol used on the
6 business sign shall be reproduced with the colors and general shape
7 consistent with customary use. Any messages, trademarks, or brand
8 symbols which interfere with, imitate, or resemble any official warning
9 or regulatory traffic sign, signal, or device are prohibited.

10 (12)) "Roadside area information panel or display" means a panel
11 or display located so as not to be readable from the main traveled way,
12 erected in a safety rest area, scenic overlook, or similar roadside
13 area, for providing motorists with information in the specific interest
14 of the traveling public.

15 ((13) "Tourist-oriented directional sign" means a sign on a
16 specific information panel on the state highway system to provide
17 directional information to a qualified tourist-oriented business,
18 service, or activity.

19 (14) "Qualified tourist-oriented business" means any lawful
20 cultural, historical, recreational, educational, or entertaining
21 activity or a unique or unusual commercial or nonprofit activity, the
22 major portion of whose income or visitors are derived during its normal
23 business season from motorists not residing in the immediate area of
24 the activity.

25 (15)) (11) "Temporary agricultural directional sign" means a sign
26 on private property adjacent to state highway right of way to provide
27 directional information to places of business offering for sale
28 seasonal agricultural products on the property where the sale is taking
29 place.

1 (~~(16)~~) (12) "Adopt-a-highway sign" means a sign on state highway
2 right of way referring to the department's adopt-a-highway litter
3 control program.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.36 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this
7 chapter.

8 (1) "Erect" means to construct, build, raise, assemble, place,
9 affix, attach, create, paint, draw, or in any other way bring into
10 being or establish.

11 (2) "Interstate system" means a state highway that is or becomes
12 part of the national system of interstate and defense highways as
13 described in section 103(d) of title 23, United States Code.

14 (3) "Maintain" means to allow to exist.

15 (4) "Primary system" means a state highway that is or becomes part
16 of the federal-aid primary system as described in section 103(b) of
17 title 23, United States Code.

18 (5) "Scenic system" means (a) a state highway within a public park,
19 federal forest area, public beach, public recreation area, or national
20 monument, (b) a state highway or portion of a highway outside the
21 boundaries of an incorporated city or town designated by the
22 legislature as a part of the scenic system, or (c) a state highway or
23 portion of a highway outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or
24 town designated by the legislature as a part of the scenic and
25 recreational highway system except for the sections of highways
26 specifically excluded in RCW 47.42.025.

27 (6) "Specific information panel" means a panel, rectangular in
28 shape, located in the same manner as other official traffic signs
29 readable from the main traveled ways, and consisting of:

1 (a) The words "GAS," "FOOD," or "LODGING" and directional
2 information; and

3 (b) One or more individual business signs mounted on the panel.

4 (7) "Business sign" means a separately attached sign mounted on the
5 specific information panel or roadside area information panel to show
6 the brand or trademark and name, or both, of the motorist service
7 available on the crossroad at or near the interchange. Nationally,
8 regionally, or locally known commercial symbols or trademarks for
9 service stations, restaurants, and motels shall be used when
10 applicable. The brand or trademark identification symbol used on the
11 business sign shall be reproduced with the colors and general shape
12 consistent with customary use. Messages, trademarks, or brand symbols
13 that interfere with, imitate, or resemble an official warning or
14 regulatory traffic sign, signal, or device are prohibited.

15 (8) "Roadside area information panel or display" means a panel or
16 display located so as not to be readable from the main traveled way,
17 erected in a safety rest area, scenic overlook, or similar roadside
18 area, for providing motorists with information in the specific interest
19 of the traveling public.

20 (9) "Tourist-oriented directional sign" means a sign on a specific
21 information panel on the state highway system to provide directional
22 information to a qualified tourist-oriented business, service, or
23 activity.

24 (10) "Qualified tourist-oriented business" means a lawful cultural,
25 historical, recreational, educational, or entertaining activity or a
26 unique or unusual commercial or nonprofit activity, the major portion
27 of whose income or visitors are derived during its normal business
28 season from motorists not residing in the immediate area of the
29 activity.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.42.046, 47.42.047, 47.42.0475,
2 47.42.052, 47.42.160, and 47.42.170 are each recodified as sections in
3 chapter 47.36 RCW. The code reviser may correct internal references
4 within the recodified sections accordingly.