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SENATE BILL 5605

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State of Washington                      53rd Legislature                      1993 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Prentice and Prince

Read first time 02/04/93. Referred to Committee on Ecology & Parks.

1            AN ACT Relating to roadside improvements; amending RCW 47.36.310  
2 and 47.42.120; and adding a new section to chapter 47.40 RCW.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.40 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            The highway heritage account is created in the transportation fund.  
7 Revenue from this account shall be appropriated to the department of  
8 transportation and shall be used exclusively for grants to public  
9 agencies and private nonprofit organizations for projects that  
10 preserve, enhance, provide information about, or improve access to  
11 scenic, historical, or cultural features along state highways, county  
12 roads, or city streets. Use of this revenue to match federal or local  
13 revenue available for purposes described in this section is a high  
14 priority.

15            **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.36.310 and 1987 c 469 s 3 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17            The department is authorized to erect and maintain specific  
18 information panels within the right of way of the interstate highway

1 system to give the traveling public specific information as to gas,  
2 food, or lodging available on a crossroad at or near an interchange.  
3 Specific information panels shall include the words "GAS," "FOOD," or  
4 "LODGING" and directional information and may contain one or more  
5 individual business signs maintained on the panel. Specific  
6 information panels are authorized within the corporate limits of cities  
7 and towns and areas zoned for commercial or industrial uses at  
8 locations where there is adequate distance between interchanges to  
9 ensure compliance with the provisions of Title 23 C.F.R. sec.  
10 655.307(a). The erection and maintenance of specific information  
11 panels shall conform to the national standards promulgated by the  
12 United States secretary of transportation pursuant to sections 131 and  
13 315 of Title 23, United States Code and rules adopted by the state  
14 department of transportation. A motorist service business located  
15 within one mile of a state highway shall not be permitted to display  
16 its name, brand, or trademark on a specific information panel unless  
17 its owner has first entered into an agreement with the department  
18 limiting the height of its on-premise signs at the site of its service  
19 installation to not more than fifteen feet higher than the roof of its  
20 main building. The department shall charge reasonable fees for the  
21 display of individual business signs to defray the costs of their  
22 installation and maintenance. In addition, businesses shall pay an  
23 annual fee of one hundred dollars per mainline sign before an  
24 interchange and fifty dollars per ramp sign on an exit from the  
25 mainline or for a sign on a conventional road approach to an  
26 intersection to be deposited in the highway heritage account created in  
27 section 1 of this act. The restriction for on-premise signs shall not  
28 apply if the sign is not visible from the highway. The department may,  
29 on a case-by-case basis, waive the height restriction when an on-  
30 premise sign is visible from the rural interstate system.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.42.120 and 1984 c 7 s 232 are each amended to read  
32 as follows:

33 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, no sign  
34 except a sign of type 1 or 2 or those type 3 signs that advertise  
35 activities conducted upon the properties where the signs are located,  
36 may be erected or maintained without a permit issued by the department.  
37 Application for a permit shall be made to the department on forms  
38 furnished by it. The forms shall contain a statement that the owner or

1 lessee of the land in question has consented thereto. The application  
2 shall be accompanied by a fee (~~of ten dollars~~) to be deposited with  
3 the state treasurer to the credit of the motor vehicle fund. Permits  
4 shall be for the calendar year and shall be renewed annually upon  
5 payment of this fee for the new year without the filing of a new  
6 application. The department shall set the initial and renewal permit  
7 fees to defray administrative costs. In addition, businesses shall pay  
8 an annual fee of two hundred dollars per billboard to be deposited in  
9 the highway heritage account created in section 1 of this act. Fees  
10 shall not be prorated for fractions of the year. Advertising copy may  
11 be changed at any time without the payment of an additional fee.  
12 Assignment of permits in good standing is effective only upon receipt  
13 of written notice of assignment by the department. A permit may be  
14 revoked after hearing if the department finds that any statement made  
15 in the application was false or misleading, or that the sign covered is  
16 not in good general condition and in a reasonable state of repair, or  
17 is otherwise in violation of this chapter, if the false or misleading  
18 information has not been corrected and the sign has not been brought  
19 into compliance with this chapter within thirty days after written  
20 notification.

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