
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1702

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Hatfield, Mielke, Romero, Armstrong, Cooper, Blake, Boldt, Orcutt, Santos, McCoy, Alexander, Schoesler, Chandler, Grant, Schindler and Condotta)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to motorist information sign panels; amending RCW
2 47.36.310; reenacting and amending RCW 47.36.320; and repealing RCW
3 47.36.325.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.36.310 and 1999 c 201 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The department is authorized to erect and maintain motorist
8 information sign panels within the right of way of the interstate
9 highway system to give the traveling public specific information as to
10 gas, food, lodging, camping, or tourist-oriented business available on
11 a crossroad at or near an interchange. Motorist information sign
12 panels shall include the words "GAS," "FOOD," "LODGING," "CAMPING," or
13 "TOURIST ACTIVITIES" and directional information and may contain one or
14 more individual business signs maintained on the panel. In determining
15 the number of individual business signs to be displayed, the department
16 must ensure the use of available space on a panel is maximized.
17 Motorist information sign panels are authorized within the corporate
18 limits of cities and towns and areas zoned for commercial or industrial
19 uses at locations where there is adequate distance between interchanges

1 to ensure compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control
2 Devices. The erection and maintenance of motorist information sign
3 panels shall also conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control
4 Devices and rules adopted by the state department of transportation.
5 A motorist service or tourist-oriented business located within one mile
6 of an interstate highway shall not be permitted to display its name,
7 brand, or trademark on a motorist information sign panel unless its
8 owner has first entered into an agreement with the department limiting
9 the height of its on-premise signs at the site of its service
10 installation to not more than fifteen feet higher than the roof of its
11 main building measured to the bottom of the on-premise sign. The
12 restriction for on-premise signs does not apply if the sign is not
13 visible from the highway. The department may, on a case-by-case basis,
14 waive the height restriction when an on-premise sign is visible from
15 the rural interstate system. The department shall charge reasonable
16 fees for the display of individual business signs to defray the costs
17 of their installation and maintenance, and ~~((may))~~ shall charge
18 reasonable fees to recover costs for the erection and maintenance of
19 the motorist information sign panels. However, the annual signage fee
20 must not exceed three hundred dollars. The department must take
21 measures to ensure the timely and efficient processing of applications
22 submitted by businesses wishing to advertise on the panels.

23 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.36.320 and 1999 c 213 s 1 and 1999 c 201 s 4 are
24 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

25 The department is authorized to erect and maintain motorist
26 information sign panels within the right of way of noninterstate
27 highways to give the traveling public specific information as to gas,
28 food, lodging, recreation, or tourist-oriented businesses accessible by
29 way of highways intersecting the noninterstate highway. The motorist
30 information sign panels are permitted only at locations within the
31 corporate limits of cities and towns and areas zoned for commercial or
32 industrial uses where there is adequate distance between interchanges
33 to ensure compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control
34 Devices. Motorist information sign panels shall include the words
35 "GAS," "FOOD," "LODGING," "RECREATION," or "TOURIST ACTIVITIES" and
36 directional information and may contain one or more individual business
37 signs maintained on the panel. In determining the number of individual

1 business signs to be displayed, the department must ensure the use of
2 available space on a panel is maximized. The erection and maintenance
3 of motorist information sign panels along noninterstate highways shall
4 also conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and rules
5 adopted by the state department of transportation. A motorist service
6 or tourist-oriented business located within one mile of a noninterstate
7 highway shall not be permitted to display its name, brand, or trademark
8 on a motorist information sign panel unless its owner has first entered
9 into an agreement with the department limiting the height of its on-
10 premise signs at the site of its service installation to not more than
11 fifteen feet higher than the roof of its main building measured to the
12 bottom of the on-premise sign.

13 The department shall adopt rules for the erection and maintenance
14 of tourist-oriented directional signs with the following restrictions:

15 (1) Where installed, they shall be placed in advance of the "GAS,"
16 "FOOD," "LODGING," or "RECREATION" motorist information sign panels
17 previously described in this section;

18 (2) Signs shall not be placed to direct a motorist to an activity
19 visible from the main traveled roadway;

20 (3) Premises on which the qualified tourist-oriented business is
21 located must be within fifteen miles of the state highway except as
22 provided in RCW 47.36.330(3) (b) and (c), and necessary supplemental
23 signing on local roads must be provided before the installation of the
24 signs on the state highway.

25 The department shall charge reasonable fees for the display of
26 individual business signs to defray the costs of their installation and
27 maintenance, and (~~may~~) shall charge reasonable fees for the erection
28 and maintenance of the motorist information sign panels. However, the
29 annual signage fee for primary roads must not exceed one hundred five
30 dollars. The department must take measures to ensure the timely and
31 efficient processing of applications submitted by businesses wishing to
32 advertise on the panels.

33 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. RCW 47.36.325 (Motorist information signs--
34 Private contractors) and 2002 c 321 s 1 are each repealed.

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