
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2662

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Hudgins, Jarrett, Murray, Sommers, Morris, Santos, Sullivan, Wood, Pettigrew, Kenney, Romero, Chase and Edwards)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to transportation system signage using icons and
2 pictograms; adding a new section to chapter 47.36 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 35.95A RCW; adding a new section to chapter 81.112
4 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
7 promote the use of icons and pictograms that incorporate the use of
8 commonly accepted symbols that can be understood and interpreted by a
9 variety of people from all walks of life and different nations in order
10 to assist them in the navigation of this state. These signs can be
11 used on roadways and for other transportation-related facilities such
12 as transit stations, airports, bus and train stations, and ferry
13 terminals. Pictograms are signs that depict services, facilities, or
14 destinations in picture form and are used throughout the world.
15 Pictograms are useful for traveling within a transit system as well as
16 for locating transit system stations and stops.

17 The legislature finds that many signing methods such as icons,
18 already in use by the Washington state department of transportation and
19 other agencies, facilitate use of the transportation systems in the

1 state and connections between modes. The legislature also finds that
2 the development of pictograms for use within transit systems will
3 assist system users, complement other signing methods, and increase
4 transit system ridership through easier way-finding. The pictograms
5 may reflect the unique characteristics of the facility, and those
6 characteristics should be considered and are acceptable in icon and
7 pictogram design. It is the intent of the legislature to have icons
8 and pictograms in use as new systems are put into service to promote
9 tourism and be in place by 2010 to assist international visitors coming
10 to Washington during the Olympic Games in Vancouver, British Columbia,
11 Canada.

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

14 (1) The department shall develop a program to implement a statewide
15 program to use icons to locate transportation facilities and pictograms
16 on signs that identify tourist attractions and transportation systems'
17 facilities and services for transit system users. The new standards
18 are to supplement existing signs. The program must include guidelines
19 for implementing state, regional, and local sign programs.

20 (2) The program must use existing logos and signs to the extent
21 possible for this program and set standards, consistent with federal
22 and state requirements and convenience for the traveling public. As
23 much as possible, the department shall use approaches to signing
24 adopted by the city transportation authorities under section 3 of this
25 act and regional transit authorities under section 4 of this act. The
26 program signing is to be easily understood by the traveling public,
27 including but not limited to persons with disabilities, non-English
28 speaking persons, and visitors from other nations. The program for
29 signage must employ graphics consistent with international symbols for
30 transportation facilities and signage that are consistent with
31 department of transportation guidelines and programs. The signage must
32 also use distinguishing symbols or pictograms, including the use of
33 color, as a means to identify stations and points of interest within
34 transportation systems. The program must include criteria for
35 designating facilities, services, and destinations for signage and
36 include guidelines for the design, placement, and use of symbols or

1 pictograms. It must also address an approach to implement these signs
2 in an efficient manner.

3 (3) The department shall develop the program in cooperation with
4 representatives from regional transportation planning organizations,
5 operators of public transportation services, common carriers, port
6 districts with marine passenger terminals and airports on their
7 property, appropriate local governments, and state and federal
8 agencies.

9 (4) The department shall provide a preliminary report to the
10 legislature by December 1, 2004, on the implementation program,
11 including its benefits and costs and on progress made by city
12 transportation authorities in implementing section 3 of this act and
13 regional transit authorities in implementing section 4 of this act.
14 The department shall complete program development by September 1, 2005.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 35.95A RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 Each authority shall incorporate in plans for stations along any
18 monorail project signing that is easily understood by the traveling
19 public, including, but not limited to, persons with disabilities, non-
20 English speaking persons, and visitors from other nations. The signage
21 must employ graphics consistent with international symbols for
22 transportation facilities and signage that are consistent with
23 department of transportation guidelines and programs. The signage must
24 also use distinguishing pictograms as a means to identify stations and
25 points of interest along the monorail corridor for persons who use
26 languages that are not Roman-alphabet based. These requirements are
27 intended to apply to new sign installation and not to existing signs.
28 The authority may replace existing signs as it chooses; however, it
29 shall use the new signing designs when existing signs are replaced.
30 All signage must comply with requirements of applicable federal law and
31 may include recommendations contained in federal publications providing
32 directions on way-finding for persons with disabilities.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 Each authority shall incorporate in plans for stations along any
36 light-rail or commuter rail facility signing that is easily understood

1 by the traveling public, including, but not limited to, persons with
2 disabilities, non-English speaking persons, and visitors from other
3 nations. The signage must employ graphics consistent with
4 international symbols for transportation facilities and signage that
5 are consistent with department of transportation guidelines and
6 programs. The signage must also use distinguishing symbols or
7 pictograms as a means to identify stations and points of interest along
8 the corridor for persons who use languages that are not Roman-alphabet
9 based. These requirements are intended to apply to new sign
10 installation and not to existing signs. The authority may replace
11 existing signs as it chooses; however, it shall use the new signing
12 designs when existing signs are replaced. All signage must comply with
13 requirements of applicable federal law and may include recommendations
14 contained in federal publications providing directions on way-finding
15 for persons with disabilities.

--- END ---