
SENATE BILL 5977

State of Washington

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By Senators Esser, Schmidt, Eide, Finkbeiner, Poulsen, Reardon, Stevens, T. Sheldon and Shin

Read first time 02/26/2003. Referred to Committee on Technology & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of state highway rights of way for the
2 deployment of personal wireless service facilities; amending RCW
3 47.04.010 and 47.52.001; adding a new section to chapter 47.44 RCW;
4 adding a new section to chapter 47.04 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Personal wireless service is a critical part
7 of the state's infrastructure. The rapid deployment of personal
8 wireless service facilities is critical to ensure public safety,
9 network access, quality of service, and rural economic development.
10 The use of all state highway rights of way must be permitted for the
11 deployment of personal wireless service facilities.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.04.010 and 1975 c 62 s 50 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 The following words and phrases, wherever used in this title, shall
15 have the meaning as in this section ascribed to them, unless where used
16 the context thereof shall clearly indicate to the contrary or unless
17 otherwise defined in the chapter of which they are a part:

1 (1) "Alley." A highway within the ordinary meaning of alley not
2 designated for general travel and primarily used as a means of access
3 to the rear of residences and business establishments;

4 (2) "Arterial highway." Every highway, as herein defined, or
5 portion thereof designated as such by proper authority;

6 (3) "Business district." The territory contiguous to and including
7 a highway, as herein defined, when within any six hundred feet along
8 such highway there are buildings in use for business or industrial
9 purposes, including but not limited to hotels, banks, or office
10 buildings, railroad stations, and public buildings which occupy at
11 least three hundred feet of frontage on one side or three hundred feet
12 collectively on both sides of the highway;

13 (4) "Center line." The line, marked or unmarked parallel to and
14 equidistant from the sides of a two-way traffic roadway of a highway
15 except where otherwise indicated by painted lines or markers;

16 (5) "Center of intersection." The point of intersection of the
17 center lines of the roadways of intersecting highways;

18 (6) "City street." Every highway as herein defined, or part
19 thereof located within the limits of incorporated cities and towns,
20 except alleys;

21 (7) "Combination of vehicles." Every combination of motor vehicle
22 and motor vehicle, motor vehicle and trailer, or motor vehicle and
23 semitrailer;

24 (8) "Commercial vehicle." Any vehicle the principal use of which
25 is the transportation of commodities, merchandise, produce, freight,
26 animals, or passengers for hire;

27 (9) "County road." Every highway as herein defined, or part
28 thereof, outside the limits of incorporated cities and towns and which
29 has not been designated as a state highway, or branch thereof;

30 (10) "Crosswalk." The portion of the roadway between the
31 intersection area and a prolongation or connection of the farthest
32 sidewalk line or in the event there are no sidewalks then between the
33 intersection area and a line ten feet therefrom, except as modified by
34 a marked crosswalk;

35 (11) "Highway." Every way, lane, road, street, boulevard, and
36 every way or place in the state of Washington open as a matter of right
37 to public vehicular travel both inside and outside the limits of
38 incorporated cities and towns;

1 (12) "Intersection area." (a) The area embraced within the
2 prolongation or connection of the lateral curb lines, or, if none, then
3 the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two or more highways
4 which join one another at, or approximately at, right angles, or the
5 area within which vehicles traveling upon different highways joining at
6 any other angle may come in conflict;

7 (b) Where a highway includes two roadways thirty feet or more
8 apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by
9 an intersecting highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection.
10 In the event such intersecting highway also includes two roadways
11 thirty feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of such
12 highways shall be regarded as a separate intersection;

13 (c) The junction of an alley with a street or highway shall not
14 constitute an intersection;

15 ~~((+12+))~~ (13) "Intersection control area." The intersection area
16 as herein defined, together with such modification of the adjacent
17 roadway area as results from the arc or curb corners and together with
18 any marked or unmarked crosswalks adjacent to the intersection;

19 ~~((+13+))~~ (14) "Laned highway." A highway the roadway of which is
20 divided into clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic;

21 ~~((+14+))~~ (15) "Local authorities." Every county, municipal, or
22 other local public board or body having authority to adopt local police
23 regulations under the Constitution and laws of this state;

24 ~~((+15+))~~ (16) "Marked crosswalk." Any portion of a roadway
25 distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings
26 on the surface thereof;

27 ~~((+16+))~~ (17) "Metal tire." Every tire, the bearing surface of
28 which in contact with the highway is wholly or partly of metal or other
29 hard, nonresilient material;

30 ~~((+17+))~~ (18) "Motor truck." Any motor vehicle, as herein defined,
31 designed or used for the transportation of commodities, merchandise,
32 produce, freight, or animals;

33 ~~((+18+))~~ (19) "Motor vehicle." Every vehicle, as herein defined,
34 which is in itself a self-propelled unit;

35 ~~((+19+))~~ (20) "Multiple lane highway." Any highway the roadway of
36 which is of sufficient width to reasonably accommodate two or more
37 separate lanes of vehicular traffic in the same direction, each lane of

1 which shall be not less than the maximum legal vehicle width, and
2 whether or not such lanes are marked;

3 ~~((+20))~~ (21) "Operator." Every person who drives or is in actual
4 physical control of a vehicle as herein defined;

5 ~~((+21))~~ (22) "Peace officer." Any officer authorized by law to
6 execute criminal process or to make arrests for the violation of the
7 statutes generally or of any particular statute or statutes relative to
8 the highways of this state;

9 ~~((+22))~~ (23) "Pedestrian." Any person afoot;

10 ~~((+23))~~ (24) "Person." Every natural person, firm, copartnership,
11 corporation, association, or organization;

12 ~~((+24))~~ (25) "Personal wireless service." Any federally licensed
13 personal wireless service;

14 (26) "Personal wireless service facilities." Unstaffed facilities
15 that are used for the transmission or reception, or both, of personal
16 wireless services including, but not necessarily limited to, antenna
17 arrays, transmission cables, equipment shelters, and support
18 structures;

19 (27) "Pneumatic tires." Every tire of rubber or other resilient
20 material designed to be inflated with compressed air to support the
21 load thereon;

22 ~~((+25))~~ (28) "Private road or driveway." Every way or place in
23 private ownership and used for travel of vehicles by the owner or those
24 having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other
25 persons;

26 ~~((+26)~~ "Highway." ~~Every way, lane, road, street, boulevard, and~~
27 ~~every way or place in the state of Washington open as a matter of right~~
28 ~~to public vehicular travel both inside and outside the limits of~~
29 ~~incorporated cities and towns;~~

30 ~~(+27))~~ (29) "Railroad." A carrier of persons or property upon
31 vehicles, other than street cars, operated upon stationary rails, the
32 route of which is principally outside incorporated cities and towns;

33 ~~((+28))~~ (30) "Railroad sign or signal." Any sign, signal, or
34 device erected by authority of a public body or official or by a
35 railroad and intended to give notice of the presence of railroad tracks
36 or the approach of a railroad train;

37 ~~((+29))~~ (31) "Residence district." The territory contiguous to
38 and including the highway, as herein defined, not comprising a business

1 district, as herein defined, when the property on such highway for a
2 continuous distance of three hundred feet or more on either side
3 thereof is in the main improved with residences or residences and
4 buildings in use for business;

5 ~~((+30+))~~ (32) "Roadway." The paved, improved, or proper driving
6 portion of a highway designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel;

7 ~~((+31+))~~ (33) "Safety zone." The area or space officially set
8 apart within a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and which
9 is protected or is marked or indicated by painted marks, signs,
10 buttons, standards, or otherwise so as to be plainly discernible;

11 ~~((+32+))~~ (34) "Sidewalk." That property between the curb lines or
12 the lateral lines of a roadway, as herein defined, and the adjacent
13 property, set aside and intended for the use of pedestrians or such
14 portion of private property parallel and in proximity to a highway and
15 dedicated to use by pedestrians;

16 ~~((+33+))~~ (35) "Solid tire." Every tire of rubber or other
17 resilient material which does not depend upon inflation with compressed
18 air for the support of the load thereon;

19 ~~((+34+))~~ (36) "State highway." Every highway as herein defined, or
20 part thereof, which has been designated as a state highway, or branch
21 thereof, by legislative enactment;

22 ~~((+35+))~~ (37) "Street car." A vehicle other than a train, as
23 herein defined, for the transporting of persons or property and
24 operated upon stationary rails principally within incorporated cities
25 and towns;

26 ~~((+36+))~~ (38) "Traffic." Pedestrians, ridden or herded animals,
27 vehicles, street cars, and other conveyances either singly or together
28 while using any highways for purposes of travel;

29 ~~((+37+))~~ (39) "Traffic control signal." Any traffic device, as
30 herein defined, whether manually, electrically, or mechanically
31 operated, by which traffic alternately is directed to stop or proceed
32 or otherwise controlled;

33 ~~((+38+))~~ (40) "Traffic devices." All signs, signals, markings, and
34 devices not inconsistent with this title placed or erected by authority
35 of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of
36 regulating, warning, or guiding traffic;

37 ~~((+39+))~~ (41) "Train." A vehicle propelled by steam, electricity,

1 or other motive power with or without cars coupled thereto, operated
2 upon stationary rails, except street cars;

3 ((+40+)) (42) "Vehicle." Every device capable of being moved upon
4 a highway and in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be
5 transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices moved by human
6 or animal power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

7 Words and phrases used herein in the past, present, or future tense
8 shall include the past, present, and future tenses; words and phrases
9 used herein in the masculine, feminine, or neuter gender shall include
10 the masculine, feminine, and neuter genders; and words and phrases used
11 herein in the singular or plural shall include the singular and plural;
12 unless the context thereof shall indicate to the contrary.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.44 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 This chapter does not apply to permits issued for the deployment of
16 personal wireless service facilities as provided in section 5 of this
17 act.

18 **Sec. 4.** RCW 47.52.001 and 1961 c 13 s 47.52.001 are each amended
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) Unrestricted access to and from public highways has resulted in
21 congestion and peril for the traveler. It has caused undue slowing of
22 all traffic in many areas. The investment of the public in highway
23 facilities has been impaired and highway facilities costing vast sums
24 of money will have to be relocated and reconstructed.

25 (2) Personal wireless service is a critical part of the state's
26 infrastructure. The rapid deployment of personal wireless service
27 facilities is critical to ensure public safety, network access, quality
28 of service, and rural economic development.

29 (3) It is, therefore, the declared policy of this state to limit
30 access to the highway facilities of this state in the interest of
31 highway safety and for the preservation of the investment of the public
32 in such facilities; except that the use of the rights of way of limited
33 access facilities must be permitted for the deployment of personal
34 wireless service facilities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 47.04 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) For the purposes of this section:

4 (a) "Right of way" means all state-owned land within a state
5 highway corridor.

6 (b) "Service provider" means every corporation, company,
7 association, joint stock association, firm, partnership, or person
8 that owns, operates, or manages any personal wireless service facility.
9 "Service provider" includes a service provider's contractors,
10 subcontractors, and legal successors.

11 (2) The department shall establish a process for issuing an annual
12 permit for the use of the right of way by a service provider.

13 (a) The permit must include the right of direct ingress and egress
14 from the highway to the personal wireless service facility. However,
15 the permit may specify an indirect ingress and egress to the facility
16 if it is reasonable and available for the particular location.

17 (b) The permit must require that personal wireless service
18 facilities are installed and maintained within the right of way so as
19 not to adversely affect public safety.

20 (3) The cost of the annual permit is limited to the fair market
21 value of the portion of the right of way being used by the service
22 provider and the direct administrative expenses incurred by the
23 department in processing the permit application.

24 If the department and the service provider are unable to agree on
25 the cost of the permit, the service provider may submit the cost of the
26 permit to binding arbitration by serving written notice on the
27 department. Within thirty days of receiving the notice, each party
28 shall furnish a list of acceptable arbitrators. The parties shall
29 select an arbitrator; failing to agree on an arbitrator, each party
30 shall select one arbitrator and the two arbitrators shall select a
31 third arbitrator for an arbitration panel. The arbitrator or panel
32 shall determine the cost of the permit based on comparable siting
33 agreements or permits involving public land and rights of way. Costs
34 of the arbitration, including compensation for the arbitrator's
35 services, must be borne equally by the parties participating in the
36 arbitration and each party shall bear its own costs and expenses,
37 including legal fees and witness expenses, in connection with the
38 arbitration proceeding.

1 (4) The department shall act on a request for a permit within sixty
2 days of receiving a completed application, unless a service provider
3 consents to a different time period.

4 (5) The reasons for a denial of a permit application must be
5 supported by substantial evidence contained in a written record.

6 (6) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The process for issuing annual permits
8 required in section 5(2) of this act must be established by November 3,
9 2003.

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