

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1798**

Chapter 407, Laws of 2005

59th Legislature  
2005 Regular Session

MOTORIST INFORMATION SIGNS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/24/05

Passed by the House April 18, 2005  
Yeas 94 Nays 1

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2005  
Yeas 48 Nays 1

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Approved May 11, 2005.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1798** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

RICHARD NAFZIGER

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 11, 2005 - 2:16 p.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1798**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2005 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Simpson, Skinner, Lovick, Armstrong, B. Sullivan, Schindler, Upthegrove, Murray and Hudgins)

READ FIRST TIME 03/08/05.

1            AN ACT Relating to motorist information sign panels; amending RCW  
2 47.36.310; reenacting and amending RCW 47.36.320; adding a new section  
3 to chapter 47.36 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW  
4 47.36.325.

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

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

8            The department is authorized to erect and maintain motorist  
9 information sign panels within the right of way of the interstate  
10 highway system to give the traveling public specific information as to  
11 gas, food, lodging, camping, or tourist-oriented business available on  
12 a crossroad at or near an interchange. Motorist information sign  
13 panels shall include the words "GAS," "FOOD," "LODGING," "CAMPING," or  
14 "TOURIST ACTIVITIES" and the letters "RV" next to a gas, food, lodging,  
15 camping, or tourist activity sign if the business or destination  
16 accommodates recreational vehicles, and directional information  
17 ((and)). Directional information may contain one or more individual  
18 business signs maintained on the panel. The "RV" logo for businesses  
19 or destinations that accommodate recreational vehicles shall be placed

1 in the lower right corner of the gas, food, lodging, camping, or  
2 tourist activity sign and shall be in the form of a small yellow circle  
3 with the letters "RV" in black. In managing the number of individual  
4 business signs to be displayed, the department must ensure the use of  
5 available space on a panel is maximized. Motorist information sign  
6 panels are authorized within the corporate limits of cities and towns  
7 and areas zoned for commercial or industrial uses at locations where  
8 there is adequate distance between interchanges to ensure compliance  
9 with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The erection and  
10 maintenance of motorist information sign panels shall also conform to  
11 the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and rules adopted by the  
12 state department of transportation. A motorist service or tourist-  
13 oriented business located within one mile of an interstate highway  
14 shall not be permitted to display its name, brand, or trademark on a  
15 motorist information sign panel unless its owner has first entered into  
16 an agreement with the department limiting the height of its on-premise  
17 signs at the site of its service installation to not more than fifteen  
18 feet higher than the roof of its main building measured to the bottom  
19 of the on-premise sign. The restriction for on-premise signs does not  
20 apply if the sign is not visible from the highway. The department may,  
21 on a case-by-case basis, waive the height restriction when an on-  
22 premise sign is visible from the rural interstate system. The  
23 department shall charge ((reasonable)) sufficient fees for the display  
24 of individual business signs to ((defray)) recover the costs of their  
25 installation and maintenance, and ((may)) shall charge ((reasonable))  
26 sufficient fees to recover costs for the erection and maintenance of  
27 the motorist information sign panels.

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

30 The department is authorized to erect and maintain motorist  
31 information sign panels within the right of way of noninterstate  
32 highways to give the traveling public specific information as to gas,  
33 food, lodging, recreation, or tourist-oriented businesses accessible by  
34 way of highways intersecting the noninterstate highway. The motorist  
35 information sign panels are permitted only at locations within the  
36 corporate limits of cities and towns and areas zoned for commercial or  
37 industrial uses where there is adequate distance between interchanges

1 to ensure compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control  
2 Devices. Motorist information sign panels shall include the words  
3 "GAS," "FOOD," "LODGING," "RECREATION," or "TOURIST ACTIVITIES" and the  
4 letters "RV" next to a gas, food, lodging, camping, or tourist activity  
5 sign if the business or destination accommodates recreational vehicles,  
6 and directional information ((and)). Directional information may  
7 contain one or more individual business signs maintained on the panel.  
8 The "RV" logo for businesses or destinations that accommodate  
9 recreational vehicles shall be placed in the lower right corner of the  
10 gas, food, lodging, camping, or tourist activity sign and shall be in  
11 the form of a small yellow circle with the letters "RV" in black. In  
12 managing the number of individual business signs to be displayed, the  
13 department must ensure the use of available space on a panel is  
14 maximized. The erection and maintenance of motorist information sign  
15 panels along noninterstate highways shall also conform to the Manual on  
16 Uniform Traffic Control Devices and rules adopted by the state  
17 department of transportation. A motorist service or tourist-oriented  
18 business located within one mile of a noninterstate highway shall not  
19 be permitted to display its name, brand, or trademark on a motorist  
20 information sign panel unless its owner has first entered into an  
21 agreement with the department limiting the height of its on-premise  
22 signs at the site of its service installation to not more than fifteen  
23 feet higher than the roof of its main building measured to the bottom  
24 of the on-premise sign.

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

27 (1) Where installed, they shall be placed in advance of the "GAS,"  
28 "FOOD," "LODGING," ((~~or~~)) "RECREATION," or "RV" motorist information  
29 sign panels previously described in this section;

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

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

37 The department shall charge ((reasonable)) sufficient fees for the  
38 display of individual business signs to ((defray)) recover the costs of

1 their installation and maintenance, and (~~may~~) shall charge  
2 (~~reasonable~~) sufficient fees to recover the costs for the erection  
3 and maintenance of the motorist information sign panels.

4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 47.36 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department of transportation shall not include the logo  
7 "RV" under RCW 47.36.310 and 47.36.320 unless a business or destination  
8 requests an "RV" logo and the department determines that the gas, food,  
9 or lodging business or the camping or tourist activity destination  
10 provides parking spaces, overhang clearances, and entrances and exits  
11 designed to accommodate recreational or other large vehicles.

12 (2) The department may charge a reasonable fee in accordance with  
13 RCW 47.36.310 or 47.36.320 to defray the costs associated with the  
14 installation and maintenance of signs with "RV" logos.

15 (3) The department may adopt rules necessary to administer this  
16 section.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The department of transportation shall  
18 submit an electronic report by December 15, 2005, to the house of  
19 representatives and senate transportation committees detailing revenues  
20 and expenditures of the motorist information sign program. The report  
21 shall also include a detailed explanation of the methodology and  
22 calculation of costs charged to businesses using the program.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. RCW 47.36.325 (Motorist information signs--  
24 Private contractors) and 2002 c 321 s 1 are each repealed.

Passed by the House April 18, 2005.

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2005.

Approved by the Governor May 11, 2005.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 11, 2005.