

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5003

As of January 18, 2011

Title: An act relating to an addition to the scenic and recreational highway system.

Brief Description: Adding to the scenic and recreational highway system.

Sponsors: Senators Schoesler and Shin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/17/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Hayley Gamble (786-7452)

Background: The Scenic and Recreational Highway System (SRHS) was created in statute in 1967. Additional highways and the ferry system have been added over time to SRHS through either recommendation from the Department of Transportation (DOT) followed by legislation, or direct legislation. Modifications to the state process for classifying highways as part of the scenic highway system were made in 1999 in order to make Washington highways competitive under the new Federal Scenic Byways Grant Program. In 1999 the DOT reviewed various aspects of a state highway's characteristics when considering candidates for the SRHS, such as: natural aspects, cultural features, recreational activities, and local involvement and support for inclusion. The Transportation Commission may also designate, on an interim basis, state scenic highways. In order to become permanent, the Legislature must approve the designation of a SRHS.

Highways in the SRHS are eligible candidates for grants from the Federal Scenic Byways Program. Highways in the SRHS are also subject to certain restrictions on signage displays as defined in the Scenic Vistas Act in RCW 47.42.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): An additional portion of State Route 27, between the city of Tekoa and the town of Rockford, is added to the SRHS. State Route 278, which runs between the town of Rockford and the Idaho border, is also added to the SRHS.

Appropriation: None.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Please extend the scenic highway designation on SR 27 through the towns of Latah, Fairfield, and Rockford and also onto SR 278. There is beautiful scenery through this area consistent with other areas designated as scenic highways. This designation will help the community and improve economic development opportunities.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Schoesler, prime sponsor; Micki Harnois, Mayor of Rockford.