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**SENATE BILL 6650**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Fortunato

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a volunteer highway sweeping program  
2 for businesses; and adding a new section to chapter 47.40 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.40  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1)(a) The department shall establish a statewide volunteer  
7 highway sweeping program. The purpose of the program is to provide  
8 businesses an opportunity to contribute to cleaner roadways and a  
9 cleaner environment. Participating businesses may adopt department-  
10 designated sections of state highways, rest areas, park and ride  
11 lots, intermodal facilities, and any other facilities the department  
12 deems appropriate, in accordance with rules adopted by the  
13 department. The department may elect to coordinate a consortium of  
14 participants for volunteer highway sweeping projects.

15 (b) The volunteer highway sweeping program may include, at a  
16 minimum, cleanup on highways and shoulders and any other roadside  
17 improvement or clean-up activities the department deems appropriate.  
18 The department shall not accept volunteer highway sweeping proposals  
19 that have the effect of terminating classified employees or  
20 classified employee positions.

1 (2) A business choosing to participate in the volunteer highway  
2 sweeping program must have relevant street sweeping experience and be  
3 able to supply its own appropriate safety equipment, and submit a  
4 proposal to the department. The department shall review the proposal  
5 for consistency with departmental policy and rules. The department  
6 may accept, reject, or modify an applicant's proposal.

7 (3) The department shall seek partnerships with businesses to  
8 facilitate the goals of this section. The department may solicit  
9 funding for the volunteer highway sweeping program that allows  
10 private entities to undertake all or a portion of financing for the  
11 initiatives. The department shall develop guidelines regarding the  
12 cash, labor, and in-kind contributions to be performed by the  
13 participants.

14 (4) A business whose name: (a) Endorses or opposes a particular  
15 candidate for public office, (b) advocates a position on a specific  
16 political issue, initiative, referendum, or piece of legislation, or  
17 (c) includes a reference to a political party is not eligible to  
18 participate in the volunteer highway sweeping program.

19 (5) In administering the volunteer highway sweeping program, the  
20 department shall:

21 (a) Provide a standardized application form, registration form,  
22 and contractual agreement for all participating businesses. The forms  
23 shall notify the prospective participants of the risks and  
24 responsibilities to be assumed by the department and the  
25 participants;

26 (b) Require all participants to be at least eighteen years of  
27 age;

28 (c) Require one designated leader for each participating  
29 business, unless the department chooses to coordinate a consortium of  
30 participants;

31 (d) Assign each participating business a section or sections of  
32 state highway, or other state-owned transportation facilities, for a  
33 specified period of time;

34 (e) Recognize the efforts of a participating business by erecting  
35 and maintaining signs with the business's name on both ends of the  
36 business's section of highway;

37 (f) Provide safety training for all participants;

38 (g) Provide appropriate traffic control while a business is  
39 sweeping the highway;

1           (h) Pay any and all premiums or assessments required under RCW  
2 51.12.035 to secure medical aid benefits under chapter 51.36 RCW for  
3 all volunteers participating in the program;

4           (i) Require participating businesses pay all employer premiums or  
5 assessments required to secure medical aid benefits under chapter  
6 51.36 RCW for all employees or agents participating in the program;

7           (j) Maintain records of all injuries and accidents that occur;

8           (k) Adopt rules that establish a process to resolve any question  
9 of a business's eligibility to participate in the volunteer highway  
10 sweeping program;

11           (l) Obtain permission from property owners who lease right-of-way  
12 before allowing a business to adopt a section of highway on such  
13 leased property; and

14           (m) Establish procedures and guidelines for the volunteer highway  
15 sweeping program.

16           (6) Nothing in this section affects the rights or activities of,  
17 or agreements with, adjacent landowners, including the use of rights-  
18 of-way and crossings, nor impairs these rights and uses by the  
19 placement of signs.

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