

RCW 47.42.080 Public nuisance—Abatement—Penalty. (1) Any sign erected or maintained contrary to the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted hereunder that is designed to be viewed from the interstate system, the primary system, or the scenic system is a public nuisance, and the department, the chief of the Washington state patrol, the county sheriff, or the chief of police of any city or town shall notify the permittee or, if there is no permittee, the owner of the property on which the sign is located, by certified mail at his or her last known address, that it constitutes a public nuisance and must comply with the chapter or be removed.

(2) If the permittee or owner, as the case may be, fails to comply with the chapter or remove any such sign within fifteen days after being notified to remove the sign he or she is guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition to the penalties imposed by law upon conviction, an order may be entered compelling removal of the sign. Each day the sign is maintained constitutes a separate offense.

(3) If the permittee or owner, as the case may be, fails to comply with this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter or fails to remove any sign erected or maintained contrary to the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter within fifteen days after being notified to remove the sign, the department shall assess a fine of one hundred dollars per calendar day until the sign is brought into compliance or is removed. The one hundred dollar per calendar day fine is not contingent on a misdemeanor conviction. Fines collected under this subsection must be deposited with the state treasurer to the credit of the motor vehicle fund.

(4) If the permittee or the owner of the property upon which it is located, as the case may be, is not found or refuses receipt of the notice, the department, the chief of the Washington state patrol, the county sheriff, or the chief of police of any city or town shall post the sign and property upon which it is located with a notice that the sign constitutes a public nuisance and must be removed. If the sign is not removed within fifteen days after such posting, the department, the chief of the Washington state patrol, the county sheriff, or the chief of police of any city or town shall abate the nuisance and destroy the sign, and for that purpose may enter upon private property without incurring liability for doing so.

(5) Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the provisions contained in RCW 47.42.102 requiring the payment of compensation upon the removal of any signs compensable under state law.

(6) Any sign erected or maintained on state highway right-of-way contrary to this chapter or rules adopted under it is a public nuisance, and the department is authorized to remove any such sign without notice. [2013 c 312 § 2; 2010 c 8 § 10016; 1985 c 376 § 6; 1984 c 7 § 227; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 55 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 10; 1961 c 96 § 8.]

Legislative intent—1985 c 376: See note following RCW 47.42.020.