
HOUSE BILL 1964

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By Representatives K. Schmidt, R. Fisher, Robertson, Cairnes, Ogden, Hankins, Elliot, Johnson, Chandler, Scott, Tokuda, Quall, Backlund, Chopp, Horn, Koster, McMahan, Mitchell, Skinner, Benton, D. Schmidt and Stevens

Read first time 02/17/95. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to access to accident reports; amending RCW
2 46.52.030; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.52.030 and 1989 c 353 s 5 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in
7 injury to or death of any person or damage to the property of any one
8 person to an apparent extent equal to or greater than the minimum
9 amount established by rule adopted by the chief of the Washington state
10 patrol in accordance with subsection (5) of this section, shall, within
11 twenty-four hours after such accident, make a written report of such
12 accident to the chief of police of the city or town if such accident
13 occurred within an incorporated city or town or the county sheriff or
14 state patrol if such accident occurred outside incorporated cities and
15 towns. Nothing in this subsection prohibits accident reports from
16 being filed by drivers where damage to property is less than the
17 minimum amount.

18 (2) The original of ((such)) the report shall be immediately
19 forwarded by the authority receiving ((such)) the report to the chief

1 of the Washington state patrol at Olympia, Washington(~~(, and the second~~
2 ~~copy of such report to be forwarded to)~~). The Washington state patrol
3 shall give the department of licensing ((at Olympia, Washington)) full
4 access to the report.

5 (3) Any law enforcement officer who investigates an accident for
6 which a driver's report is required under subsection (1) of this
7 section shall submit an investigator's report as required by RCW
8 46.52.070.

9 (4) The chief of the Washington state patrol may require any driver
10 of any vehicle involved in an accident, of which report must be made as
11 provided in this section, to file supplemental reports whenever the
12 original report in his opinion is insufficient, and may likewise
13 require witnesses of any such accident to render reports. For this
14 purpose, the chief of the Washington state patrol shall prepare and,
15 upon request, supply to any police department, coroner, sheriff, and
16 any other suitable agency or individual, sample forms of accident
17 reports required hereunder, which reports shall be upon a form devised
18 by the chief of the Washington state patrol and shall call for
19 sufficiently detailed information to disclose all material facts with
20 reference to the accident to be reported thereon, including the
21 location, the cause, the conditions then existing, the persons and
22 vehicles involved, the insurance information required under RCW
23 46.30.030, personal injury or death, if any, the amounts of property
24 damage claimed, the total number of vehicles involved, whether the
25 vehicles were legally parked, legally standing, or moving, and whether
26 such vehicles were occupied at the time of the accident. Every
27 required accident report shall be made on a form prescribed by the
28 chief of the Washington state patrol and each authority charged with
29 the duty of receiving such reports shall provide sufficient report
30 forms in compliance with the form devised. The report forms shall be
31 designated so as to provide that a copy may be retained by the
32 reporting person.

33 (5) The chief of the Washington state patrol shall adopt rules
34 establishing the accident-reporting threshold for property damage
35 accidents. Beginning October 1, 1987, the accident-reporting threshold
36 for property damage accidents shall be five hundred dollars. The
37 accident-reporting threshold for property damage accidents shall be
38 revised when necessary, but not more frequently than every two years.
39 The revisions shall only be for the purpose of recognizing economic

1 changes as reflected by an inflationary index recommended by the office
2 of financial management. The revisions shall be guided by the change
3 in the index for the time period since the last revision.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect July 1, 1996.

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