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HOUSE BILL 2767

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Brumsickle, Cole and Costa

Read first time 01/18/96. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to bicycle safety education; amending RCW  
2 28A.220.050, 46.20.095, 46.82.430, and 46.83.040; adding a new section  
3 to chapter 28A.220 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that  
6 bicycling is becoming increasingly popular in Washington as a clean and  
7 efficient mode of transportation, as a recreational activity, and as an  
8 organized sport. Future plans for the state's transportation system  
9 will require increased access and safety for bicycles on our common  
10 roadways, and federal transportation legislation and funding programs  
11 have created strong incentives to implement these changes quickly. As  
12 a result, many more people are likely to take up bicycling in  
13 Washington both as a leisure activity and as a convenient, inexpensive  
14 form of transportation. Bicyclists are more vulnerable to injury and  
15 accident than motorists, and should be as knowledgeable as possible  
16 about traffic laws, be highly visible and predictable when riding in  
17 traffic, and be encouraged to wear bicycle safety helmets. Hundreds of  
18 bicyclists are seriously injured every year in car-bicycle accidents,  
19 and millions of dollars are spent on health care costs associated with

1 these accidents. There is clear evidence that organized training in  
2 the rules and techniques of safe and effective cycling can  
3 significantly reduce the incidence of serious injury and accidents  
4 among bicyclists, increase cooperation among road users, and  
5 significantly increase the incidence of bicycle helmet use,  
6 particularly among minors.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.220  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish a  
10 program for training persons in the safe and effective operation of  
11 bicycles, and shall cooperate with the Washington state patrol, the  
12 traffic safety commission, the state criminal justice training  
13 commission, the Bicycle Federation of America, the League of American  
14 Bicyclists, state and local bicycling organizations, local governments,  
15 public school districts, or other appropriate public and private  
16 organizations in developing and operating the program.

17 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall prescribe  
18 minimum qualifications for instructors and minimum elements of the  
19 program. The program shall include instruction concerning:

20 (a) The safe handling and use of bicycles;

21 (b) High-risk traffic situations;

22 (c) Bicycle and traffic handling skills;

23 (d) On-bike training;

24 (e) Correct use of bicycle helmets;

25 (f) Traffic laws and regulations; and

26 (g) The number and severity of injuries resulting from bicycling  
27 accidents in Washington and nationally and the number and severity of  
28 such injuries among minors.

29 (3) Upon successful completion of the program, participants shall  
30 receive a bicycle safety education certificate signed by an authorized  
31 instructor. The certificate is evidence of compliance with this  
32 section.

33 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.220.050 and 1986 c 93 s 4 are each amended to read  
34 as follows:

35 The superintendent of public instruction shall include information  
36 on the proper use of the left-hand lane by motor vehicles on multilane

1 highways and on bicyclists' rights and responsibilities in  
2 instructional material used in traffic safety education courses.

3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.20.095 and 1986 c 93 s 3 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 The department shall include information on the proper use of the  
6 left-hand lane by motor vehicles on multilane highways and on  
7 bicyclists' rights and responsibilities in its instructional  
8 publications for drivers.

9 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.82.430 and 1986 c 93 s 5 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 Instructional material used in driver training schools shall  
12 include information on the proper use of the left-hand lane by motor  
13 vehicles on multilane highways and on bicyclists' rights and  
14 responsibilities and suggested riding procedures in common traffic  
15 situations.

16 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.83.040 and 1961 c 12 s 46.83.040 are each amended  
17 to read as follows:

18 It shall be the purpose of every traffic school which may be  
19 established hereunder to instruct, educate, and inform all persons  
20 appearing for training in the proper, lawful, and safe operation of  
21 motor vehicles, including but not limited to rules of the road and the  
22 limitations of persons, vehicles, and bicycles and roads, streets, and  
23 highways under varying conditions and circumstances.

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