

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1195

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**As Reported By House Committee On:**  
Transportation Policy & Budget

**Title:** An act relating to proof of financial responsibility for motor vehicle operation.

**Brief Description:** Requiring proof of auto insurance to drivers' license examiners.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Robertson, Schoesler, Dunshee, Sterk, Scott, K. Schmidt, Buck, Smith, Delvin, Hickel, Carlson, Hatfield, DeBolt, Dunn and Mulliken.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Transportation Policy & Budget: 2/12/97, 2/24/97 [DPS].

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION POLICY & BUDGET

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 25 members: Representatives K. Schmidt, Chairman; Hankins, Vice Chairman; Mielke, Vice Chairman; Mitchell, Vice Chairman; Fisher, Ranking Minority Member; Blalock, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Cooper, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Backlund; Buck; Chandler; Constantine; DeBolt; Hatfield; Johnson; Murray; O'Brien; Ogden; Radcliff; Robertson; Romero; Scott; Skinner; Sterk; Wood and Zellinsky.

**Minority Report:** Without recommendation. Signed by 1 member: Representative Cairnes.

**Staff:** Jennifer Joly (786-7305).

**Background:** RCW 46.30.020 provides that no person may operate a motor vehicle unless insured under a motor vehicle liability policy, self-insured, covered by a certificate of deposit, or covered by a liability bond.

Currently, written proof of financial responsibility, in the form of an insurance identification card, must be provided at the request of a law enforcement officer. Failure to display an insurance identification card creates a presumption that the person does not have motor vehicle insurance and is a traffic infraction. Providing false evidence of financial responsibility is a misdemeanor.

Prior to the road test portion of a driver's license examination, the Department of Licensing requires applicants to sign an affidavit attesting that they meet the financial responsibility requirements of RCW 46.30.020.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** Written proof of financial responsibility for motor vehicle operation must be provided upon request of a licensing service representative in the course of his or her official duties.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The obsolete term driver's license examiner— is replaced with licensing service representative.—

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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

**Testimony For:** The law already requires proof of financial responsibility to drive a car. However, this bill is needed so that licensing service representatives can be assured that applicants are properly insured prior to the road test.

**Testimony Against:** Mere display of an insurance card does not demonstrate that the coverage is currently valid. There are no provisions in the bill that allow the Department of Licensing to restrict a person from taking a drive test in the event that they are unable to display proof of insurance.

**Testified:** Jan Coolidge, Department of Licensing (concerns); Joe Daniels, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 17 (pro); and Captain Marsh Pugh, Washington State Patrol (pro).