

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5168

As of January 28, 1997

Title: An act relating to notice of traffic violations by minors.

Brief Description: Notifying vehicle owners of traffic violations by minor drivers.

Sponsors: Senators Stevens, Rossi, Zarelli, Horn, Schow, Oke and Roach.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Law & Justice: 1/28/97.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Staff: Lidia Mori (786-7755)

Background: A law enforcement officer may issue a notice of traffic infraction when the infraction is committed in the officer's presence or when the officer is responding to the request of another law enforcement officer in whose presence the traffic infraction occurred. An officer who is investigating a motor vehicle accident and has reasonable cause to believe the driver involved in the accident committed an infraction may also issue a notice of traffic infraction. If a vehicle without a driver is found parked or standing in violation of a traffic law, the officer will note the vehicle registration number and will place a notice of traffic infraction on the vehicle.

If a person to whom a notice of traffic infraction was issued fails to respond within 15 days of the date of the notice, the court will assess a monetary penalty and notify the Department of Licensing of the failure to appear.

There is no requirement that the registered owner of a vehicle that is involved in a traffic infraction and driven by a minor be notified of the filing of a notice of a traffic infraction.

Summary of Bill: Written notice of the filing of a traffic infraction must be mailed within three business days to the registered owner of the vehicle involved in the traffic infraction if it was operated by a minor and the minor committed the infraction.

Written notice of the filing of a traffic citation must be mailed within three business days to the registered owner of the vehicle involved in the traffic citation if it was operated by a minor and the minor is alleged to have committed the traffic violation.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 27, 1997.

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