
HOUSE BILL 1639

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Costa, Robertson, Cooper and Scott

Read first time 02/04/97. Referred to Committee on Transportation Policy & Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to accident reports; and amending RCW 46.52.080.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.52.080 and 1979 c 158 s 162 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) All required accident reports and supplemental reports and
6 copies ((thereof)) of such reports shall be without prejudice to the
7 ((individual so reporting and shall be)) person making the report.
8 Such reports are for the confidential use of the county prosecuting
9 attorney and chief of police or county sheriff, as the case may be, and
10 the director of licensing and the chief of the Washington state patrol,
11 and other officer or commission as authorized by law, except that such
12 reports shall be disclosed as authorized under subsection (2) of this
13 section.

14 (2)(a) Any ((such)) officer named in subsection (1) of this section
15 having custody of accident reports shall disclose to a person listed in
16 (b) of this subsection the following:

17 (i) The names and addresses of persons reported as involved in an
18 accident or as witnesses thereto((τ))i

1 (ii) The vehicle license plate numbers and descriptions of vehicles
2 involved(~~()~~); and
3 (iii) The date, time, and location of an accident(~~(to any person~~
4 ~~who may have a proper interest therein, including)~~);
5 (b) The information listed in (a) of this subsection shall be
6 disclosed to:
7 (i) The driver or drivers involved, or the legal guardian
8 thereof(~~()~~);
9 (ii) The parent of a minor driver(~~()~~);
10 (iii) The parent, grandparent, or sibling of any person over the
11 age of eighteen years injured in the accident;
12 (iv) Any person injured (~~(therein~~) in the accident;
13 (v) The owner of vehicles or property damaged (~~(thereby~~) in the
14 accident; or
15 (vi) Any other person who may be an interested party in the
16 accident, or any authorized representative of (~~(such~~) an interested
17 party, or the attorney or insurer (~~(thereof)~~) of an interested party.
18 (3)(a) No such accident report or copy thereof (~~(shall)~~) may be
19 used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an
20 accident, except (~~(that)~~) as authorized under (b) of this subsection.
21 (b)(i) Any officer (~~(above)~~) named in subsection (1) of this
22 section for receiving accident reports shall furnish, upon demand of
23 any person who has, or who claims to have, made such a report, or, upon
24 demand of any court, a certificate showing that a specified accident
25 report has or has not been made to the chief of the Washington state
26 patrol solely to prove a compliance or a failure to comply with the
27 requirement that such a report be made in the manner required by law(~~(~~
28 ~~PROVIDED, That)~~);
29 (ii) The reports may be used as evidence when necessary to
30 prosecute charges filed in connection with a violation of RCW
31 46.52.088.

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