

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5539

Chapter 248, Laws of 1997

55th Legislature
1997 Regular Session

ACCIDENT REPORTS--REQUIREMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/2/97

Passed by the Senate April 21, 1997
YEAS 47 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 8, 1997
YEAS 98 NAYS 0

CLYDE BALLARD

**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

Approved May 2, 1997

GARY LOCKE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Mike O Connell, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5539** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

MIKE O'CONNELL

Secretary

FILED

May 2, 1997 - 3:07 p.m.

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5539

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 1997 Regular Session

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Oke and Horn; by request of Washington State Patrol)

Read first time 02/27/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to accident reports; amending RCW 46.52.030; and
2 declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.52.030 and 1996 c 183 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Unless a report is to be made by a law enforcement officer
7 under subsection (3) of this section, the driver of any vehicle
8 involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person
9 or damage to the property of any one person to an apparent extent equal
10 to or greater than the minimum amount established by rule adopted by
11 the chief of the Washington state patrol in accordance with subsection
12 (5) of this section, shall, within ((twenty-four hours)) four days
13 after such accident, make a written report of such accident to the
14 chief of police of the city or town if such accident occurred within an
15 incorporated city or town or the county sheriff or state patrol if such
16 accident occurred outside incorporated cities and towns. Nothing in
17 this subsection prohibits accident reports from being filed by drivers
18 where damage to property is less than the minimum amount or where a law
19 enforcement officer has submitted a report.

1 (2) The original of the report shall be immediately forwarded by
2 the authority receiving the report to the chief of the Washington state
3 patrol at Olympia, Washington. The Washington state patrol shall give
4 the department of licensing full 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)) the chief's opinion is insufficient, and may
13 likewise require witnesses of any such accident to render reports. For
14 this purpose, the chief of the Washington state patrol shall prepare
15 and, upon request, supply to any police department, coroner, sheriff,
16 and 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)) circumstances, the conditions then existing,
22 the persons and vehicles involved, the insurance information required
23 under RCW 46.30.030, personal injury or death, if any, the amounts of
24 property damage claimed, the total number of vehicles involved, whether
25 the vehicles were legally parked, legally standing, or moving, and
26 whether 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 is necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
6 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
7 immediately.

Passed the Senate April 21, 1997.

Passed the House April 8, 1997.

Approved by the Governor May 2, 1997.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 2, 1997.