

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2733

As Reported By House Committee On:
Judiciary

Title: An act relating to representation of persons subject to traffic infraction proceedings.

Brief Description: Allowing family member representation for traffic charges against non-English speaking persons.

Sponsors: Representatives Wensman, Mastin, Skinner, Rockefeller and Santos.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Judiciary: 2/1/00, 2/3/00 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows a person who is not fluent in English to be represented by an immediate family member in traffic infraction hearings.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Carrell, Republican Co-Chair; Constantine, Democratic Co-Chair; Hurst, Democratic Vice Chair; Lambert, Republican Vice Chair; Cox; Dickerson; Esser; Kastama; Lantz; Lovick; McDonald and Schindler.

Staff: Edie Adams (786-7180).

Background:

The Motor Vehicle Title of the code establishes rules relating to driving and the roadways, and violations of many of these rules are civil traffic infractions. A person who is issued a notice of traffic infraction may respond either by not contesting the infraction and paying the fine or by asking for a hearing to contest the infraction or explain mitigating circumstances.

Statute and court rules provide procedures applicable to any proceeding to contest a determination that a person has committed a traffic infraction or to explain mitigating circumstances. Both the statute and court rules provide that a person may be represented by counsel at the proceeding.

Summary of Bill:

A person subject to traffic infraction proceedings may be represented by an immediate family member if the person is not fluent in English.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: There is no reason for a person to have to hire an attorney to represent them in a simple traffic infraction proceeding.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative Wensman, prime sponsor.