
HOUSE BILL 1272

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Boldt, Mielke, Koster, McMorris and G. Chandler

Read first time 01/20/1999. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting terminal inspections of commercial
2 vehicles; amending RCW 46.32.010 and 46.32.040; adding a new section to
3 chapter 46.61 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW 46.64.060 and
4 46.64.070; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the practice of
7 conducting random inspections of commercial motor vehicles by law
8 enforcement officers without establishment of probable cause is both
9 inefficient and costly to law enforcement agencies and to business and
10 industry. The legislature further finds that in protecting public
11 safety on the roads of this state, the enforcement of safety laws and
12 regulations must be done within the parameter of both the state and
13 federal Constitutions. It is the intent of this act to require that a
14 commercial motor vehicle operating upon the public highways of this
15 state must not be subjected to a random inspection without the
16 establishment of probable cause.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.32.010 and 1993 c 403 s 2 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

1 (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol may operate, maintain,
2 or designate, throughout the state of Washington, stations for the
3 inspection of school buses and private carrier buses, with respect to
4 vehicle equipment, drivers' qualifications, and hours of service and to
5 set reasonable times when inspection of vehicles shall be performed.

6 (2) The state patrol may inspect a commercial motor vehicle upon
7 the establishment of probable cause while the vehicle is operating on
8 the public highways of this state with respect to vehicle equipment,
9 hours of service, and driver qualifications. The state patrol shall,
10 whenever possible, conduct these inspections at commercial vehicle
11 terminals instead of along the highway.

12 (3) It is unlawful for any vehicle required to be inspected to be
13 operated over the public highways of this state unless and until it has
14 been approved periodically as to equipment.

15 (4) Inspections shall be performed by a responsible employee of the
16 chief of the Washington state patrol, who shall be duly authorized and
17 who shall have authority to secure and withhold, with written notice to
18 the director of licensing, the certificate of license registration and
19 license plates of any vehicle found to be defective in equipment so as
20 to be unsafe or unfit to be operated upon the highways of this state,
21 and it shall be unlawful for any person to operate such vehicle unless
22 and until it has been placed in a condition satisfactory to pass a
23 subsequent equipment inspection. The police officer in charge of such
24 vehicle equipment inspection shall grant to the operator of such
25 defective vehicle the privilege to move such vehicle to a place for
26 repair under such restrictions as may be reasonably necessary.

27 (5) In the event any insignia, sticker, or other marker is adopted
28 to be displayed upon vehicles in connection with the inspection of
29 vehicle equipment, it shall be displayed as required by the rules of
30 the chief of the Washington state patrol, and it is a traffic
31 infraction for any person to mutilate, destroy, remove, or otherwise
32 interfere with the display thereof.

33 (6) It is a traffic infraction for any person to refuse to have his
34 motor vehicle examined as required by the chief of the Washington state
35 patrol, or, after having had it examined, to refuse to place an
36 insignia, sticker, or other marker, if issued, upon the vehicle, or
37 fraudulently to obtain any such insignia, sticker, or other marker, or
38 to refuse to place his motor vehicle in proper condition after having

1 had it examined, or in any manner, to fail to conform to the provisions
2 of this chapter.

3 (7) It is a traffic infraction for any person to perform false or
4 improvised repairs, or repairs in any manner not in accordance with
5 acceptable and customary repair practices, upon a motor vehicle.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.32.040 and 1986 c 123 s 3 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 Vehicle equipment inspection shall be at such intervals as required
9 by the chief of the Washington state patrol and shall be made without
10 charge. A commercial motor vehicle while operating upon the public
11 highways of this state must not be stopped for a safety inspection
12 without probable cause.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 A commercial motor vehicle as defined in chapter 46.32 RCW while
16 operating upon the public highways of this state must not be stopped by
17 a law enforcement officer for a safety inspection without probable
18 cause.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
20 repealed:

21 (1) RCW 46.64.060 and 1967 c 144 s 1; and

22 (2) RCW 46.64.070 and 1973 2nd ex.s. c 22 s 1 & 1967 c 144 s 2.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
25 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
26 immediately.

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