
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1461

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Benton, R. Fisher, Horn, Romero, Chopp, Chandler, Boldt and Robertson; by request of Department of Licensing

Read first time 01/26/95. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to motor vehicle accident property damage reporting
2 threshold amounts; amending RCW 46.29.060 and 46.52.030; providing an
3 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.29.060 and 1987 c 463 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The provisions of this chapter, requiring deposit of security and
8 suspensions for failure to deposit security, subject to certain
9 exemptions, shall apply to the driver and owner of any vehicle of a
10 type subject to registration under the motor vehicle laws of this state
11 which is in any manner involved in an accident within this state, which
12 accident has resulted in bodily injury or death of any person or damage
13 to the property of any one person to an apparent extent equal to or
14 greater than the minimum amount established by rule adopted by the
15 director. The director shall adopt rules establishing the property
16 damage threshold at which the provisions of this chapter apply with
17 respect to the deposit of security and suspensions for failure to
18 deposit security. Beginning (~~October 1, 1987~~) July 1, 1995, the
19 property damage threshold shall be five hundred dollars. The

1 thresholds shall be revised when necessary, but not more frequently
2 than every two years. The revisions shall only be for the purpose of
3 recognizing economic changes as reflected by an inflationary index
4 recommended by the office of financial management. The revisions shall
5 be guided by the change in the index for the time period since the last
6 revision and by the threshold established by the chief of the
7 Washington state patrol for the filing of accident reports as provided
8 in RCW 46.52.030.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.52.030 and 1989 c 353 s 5 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

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

23 (2) The original of such report shall be immediately forwarded by
24 the authority receiving such report to the chief of the Washington
25 state patrol at Olympia, Washington, and the second copy of such report
26 to be forwarded to the department of licensing at Olympia, Washington.

27 (3) Any law enforcement officer who investigates an accident for
28 which a driver's report is required under subsection (1) of this
29 section shall submit an investigator's report as required by RCW
30 46.52.070.

31 (4) The chief of the Washington state patrol may require any driver
32 of any vehicle involved in an accident, of which report must be made as
33 provided in this section, to file supplemental reports whenever the
34 original report in his opinion is insufficient, and may likewise
35 require witnesses of any such accident to render reports. For this
36 purpose, the chief of the Washington state patrol shall prepare and,
37 upon request, supply to any police department, coroner, sheriff, and
38 any other suitable agency or individual, sample forms of accident

1 reports required hereunder, which reports shall be upon a form devised
2 by the chief of the Washington state patrol and shall call for
3 sufficiently detailed information to disclose all material facts with
4 reference to the accident to be reported thereon, including the
5 location, the cause, the conditions then existing, the persons and
6 vehicles involved, the insurance information required under RCW
7 46.30.030, personal injury or death, if any, the amounts of property
8 damage claimed, the total number of vehicles involved, whether the
9 vehicles were legally parked, legally standing, or moving, and whether
10 such vehicles were occupied at the time of the accident. Every
11 required accident report shall be made on a form prescribed by the
12 chief of the Washington state patrol and each authority charged with
13 the duty of receiving such reports shall provide sufficient report
14 forms in compliance with the form devised. The report forms shall be
15 designated so as to provide that a copy may be retained by the
16 reporting person.

17 (5) The chief of the Washington state patrol shall adopt rules
18 establishing the accident-reporting threshold for property damage
19 accidents. Beginning (~~October 1, 1987~~) July 1, 1995, the accident-
20 reporting threshold for property damage accidents shall be (~~five~~)
21 seven hundred dollars. The accident-reporting threshold for property
22 damage accidents shall be revised when necessary, but not more
23 frequently than every two years. The revisions shall only be for the
24 purpose of recognizing economic changes as reflected by an inflationary
25 index recommended by the office of financial management. The revisions
26 shall be guided by the change in the index for the time period since
27 the last revision.

28 The monetary threshold in this section shall apply only to the
29 accident reporting requirement without effect on the deposit of
30 security and suspension for failure to deposit security outlined in RCW
31 46.29.060.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
33 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
34 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
35 effect July 1, 1995.

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