

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2733

---

---

**As Passed House:**  
February 11, 2000

**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].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/11/00, 96-0.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Allows a person who is not fluent in English to be represented by an immediate family member in traffic infraction hearings.</li></ul>

- 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.