

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5743

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Transportation, February 25, 2013

Title: An act relating to the use of revenue from automated school bus safety camera infractions.

Brief Description: Modifying the use of revenue from automated school bus safety camera infractions.

Sponsors: Senators Hobbs, King and Eide.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/20/13, 2/25/13 [DP, DNP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Eide, Co-Chair; King, Co-Chair; Hobbs, Vice Co-Chair; Fain, Budget Leadership Cabinet; Billig, Brown, Carrell, Ericksen, Harper, Litzow, Mullet, Rolfes, Schlicher, Sheldon and Smith.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Benton, Vice Co-Chair.

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: Under current law, school districts may install and operate automated school bus safety cameras on school buses to detect violations of the restrictions concerning overtaking and meeting stopped school buses that are receiving or discharging school children. The cameras may only take pictures of the vehicle and vehicle's license plate while an infraction is occurring, and must not reveal the face of the driver or passengers. Infractions detected through the use of cameras are not part of the registered owner's driving record. Additionally, infractions must be processed like parking infractions, and fines issued for infractions may not exceed twice the monetary penalty for violating stopped school bus restrictions. The monetary penalty is currently \$394.

Revenues collected from infractions detected through the use of automated school bus safety cameras, less administration and operating costs, must be used for school zone safety projects.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: The permitted uses of revenues collected from infractions detected through the use of automated school bus safety cameras is expanded to include school bus safety projects.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The school bus safety camera law was recently passed; however, the Legislature neglected to specifically allow the penalty revenues to be used for school bus improvements. This bill provides good clarification to allow for student security and training for bus drivers.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Hobbs, prime sponsor; Marcia Fromhold, WA Assn. for Pupil Transportation; Allan Jones, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.