Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research



Transportation Committee

HB 2862

Brief Description: Modifying the meaning of motorcycle to include other steering mechanisms.

Sponsors: Representative Orcutt.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Modifies the definition of a motorcycle that has enclosed seating and safety belts, to allow steering with a handlebar.

Hearing Date: 2/6/20

Staff: Beth Redfield (786-7140).

Background:

The definition of motorcycle includes two variations, both of which may not have more than three wheels. The first and original definition is that the driver rides on a seat or saddle and the vehicle is steered with a handlebar. A second definition, added in 2009, is that the driver rides on a seat in a partially or completely enclosed seating area that is equipped with safety belts, and is steered with a steering wheel.

Meeting the definition of motorcycle confers certain privileges relating to high-occupancy vehicle access, exemption from high occupancy toll lane tolls, and for motorcycles with seatbelts and enclosed seating areas, an exemption from the requirement for a motorcycle endorsement on a driver's license.

Summary of Bill:

The second definition of a motorcycle in which the rider is seated in a partially or completely enclosed seating area, uses a seatbelt, and steers with a steering wheel is modified to also allow steering with a handlebar.

House Bill Analysis - 1 - HB 2862

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.

Corresponding definitions of motorcycle are also updated in several other laws: seat belt requirements, helmet requirements, and detection of motorcycles at intersections.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 2, 2020.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.