

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SSB 6330

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*As Passed House  
March 5, 1992*

**Title:** An act relating to driving while license suspended or revoked.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the operation of a motor vehicle while license is suspended or revoked.

**Sponsor(s):** By Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Nelson, Madsen, Bauer, McCaslin, Oke and Roach).

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Judiciary, February 28, 1992, DP;  
Passed House, March 5, 1992, 97-0.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY**

**Majority Report:** *Do pass.* Signed by 19 members:  
Representatives Appelwick, Chair; Ludwig, Vice Chair;  
Padden, Ranking Minority Member; Paris, Assistant Ranking  
Minority Member; Belcher; Broback; Forner; Hargrove; Inslee;  
Locke; R. Meyers; Mielke; H. Myers; Riley; Scott;  
D. Sommers; Tate; Vance; and Wineberry.

**Staff:** Bill Perry (786-7123).

**Background:** In 1991, upon the recommendation of a task force composed of judges, prosecutors, attorneys, the state patrol, and the Department of Licensing, the Legislature enacted a statute that restructured the various crimes of driving with a suspended or revoked license into three categories of severity.

The first-degree crime is a gross misdemeanor with mandatory minimum penalties that escalate with repeat offenses. The second-degree crime is also a gross misdemeanor but without the mandatory minimum penalties. This crime involves driving with a suspended license and not being eligible for reinstatement. The third-degree crime is a misdemeanor and involves driving with a suspended license because of failure to get alcohol or drug treatment or failure to furnish financial responsibility.

The task force intended that the third-degree crime would also include a person who was driving while suspended but while eligible to be reinstated. However, this provision is not explicitly included in the statute.

**Summary of Bill:** The statute which sets forth the penalties for driving with a suspended or revoked license is clarified for crimes in the third degree. A person who drives while suspended or revoked, but who is eligible for reinstatement, is guilty of the crime of driving while license suspended or revoked in the third degree, a misdemeanor.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

**Testimony For:** The bill clarifies the intent of last year's legislation and closes a loophole.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Judge Robert McBeth, Washington State District and Municipal Court Judges Association (in favor).