
SENATE BILL 6026

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Senators Goings, Benton, Hargrove and T. Sheldon

Read first time 02/23/1999. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorized emergency vehicles; and amending RCW
2 46.61.035.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.035 and 1969 c 23 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding
7 to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected
8 violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from
9 a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section,
10 but subject to the conditions (~~herein~~) stated in this section.

11 (2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

12 (a) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter;

13 (b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after
14 slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;

15 (c) Exceed the maximum speed limits (~~so long as he does not~~
16 ~~endanger life or property~~);

17 (d) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or
18 turning in specified directions.

1 (3) The exemptions (~~herein~~) granted in this section to an
2 authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when such vehicle is
3 making use of visual signals meeting the requirements of RCW 46.37.190,
4 except that: (a) An authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police
5 vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from
6 in front of the vehicle; (b) authorized emergency vehicles shall use
7 audible signals when necessary to warn others of the emergency nature
8 of the situation but in no case shall they be required to use audible
9 signals while parked or standing.

10 (4) The (~~foregoing~~) provisions of this section shall not relieve
11 the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive
12 with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such
13 provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his or her
14 reckless disregard for the safety of others.

15 (5) If a police officer decides not to pursue or terminates pursuit
16 of an actual or suspected violator of the law, the officer and his or
17 her employing agency are not liable for any subsequent damages or
18 injuries caused by the fleeing suspect.

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