

---

SENATE BILL 6254

---

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senator Eide

Read first time 01/10/2006. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to reports of traffic violations and accidents by  
2 diplomats; and adding a new section to chapter 46.55 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.55 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) As used in this section, "diplomat" means an individual who:

7 (a) Has a driver's license issued by the United States Department  
8 of State; or

9 (b) Claims immunities or privileges under 22 U.S.C. Secs. 254a  
10 through 258a with respect to:

11 (i) A moving traffic violation under this title or a moving traffic  
12 violation of an ordinance of a local authority; or

13 (ii) Operating a motor vehicle while committing any of the  
14 following offenses:

15 (A) Vehicular homicide under RCW 46.61.520;

16 (B) Vehicular assault under RCW 46.61.522; or

17 (C) Reckless driving under RCW 46.61.500.

18 (2) A law enforcement officer who stops a motor vehicle and has

1 probable cause to believe that the driver is a diplomat who has  
2 committed a violation described under subsection (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of  
3 this section shall:

4 (a) As soon as practicable, contact the United States Department of  
5 State in order to verify the driver's status and immunity, if any;

6 (b) Record all relevant information from any driver's license or  
7 identification card, including a driver's license or identification  
8 card issued by the United States Department of State; and

9 (c) Within five business days after the date the officer stops the  
10 driver, forward all of the following to the department of licensing:

11 (i) If the driver is involved in a vehicle accident, the vehicle  
12 accident report;

13 (ii) If a citation or other charging document was issued to the  
14 driver, a copy of the citation or other charging document; and

15 (iii) If a citation or other charging document was not issued to  
16 the driver, a written report of the incident.

17 (3) The department shall:

18 (a) File each vehicle accident report, citation or other charging  
19 document, and incident report that the department receives under this  
20 section;

21 (b) Keep convenient records or make suitable notations showing  
22 each:

23 (i) Conviction;

24 (ii) Finding of responsibility; and

25 (iii) Vehicle accident; and

26 (c) Within five business days after receipt, send a copy of each  
27 document and record described in this subsection to the Bureau of  
28 Diplomatic Security, Office of Foreign Missions, of the United States  
29 Department of State.

30 (4) This section does not prohibit or limit the application of any  
31 law to a criminal or motor vehicle violation committed by a diplomat.

--- END ---