

SSB 5907 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Transportation

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
4 Arthur Anderson and Raymond Mitchell tow operators safety act.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.37.196 and 1977 ex.s. c 355 s 16 are each amended
6 to read as follows:

7 All emergency tow trucks shall be identified by an intermittent
8 or revolving red light capable of 360(~~(°)~~) degree visibility at a
9 distance of five hundred feet under normal atmospheric conditions.
10 (~~This intermittent or revolving red light shall be used only at the~~
11 ~~scene of an emergency or accident, and it will be unlawful to use~~
12 ~~such light while traveling to or from an emergency or accident, or~~
13 ~~for any other purposes.)) The emergency tow trucks may also operate
14 rear facing blue lights for use only at the scene of an emergency or
15 accident. The red lights may be used when the tow truck is reentering
16 the roadway from the scene of an emergency or accident for a
17 reasonable distance to reach operating speed from the scene, and the
18 combination of red and blue lights may be used only at the scene of
19 an emergency or accident. It is unlawful to use the combination of
20 lights when traveling to or from the scene of an accident or for any
21 other purpose.~~

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.61.212 and 2019 c 106 s 1 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (1) An emergency or work zone is defined as the adjacent lanes of
25 the roadway (~~(two hundred)~~) 200 feet before and after:

26 (a) A stationary authorized emergency vehicle that is making use
27 of audible and/or visual signals meeting the requirements of RCW
28 46.37.190;

29 (b) A tow truck that is making use of visual (~~(red)~~) lights
30 meeting the requirements of RCW 46.37.196;

1 (c) Other vehicles providing roadside assistance that are making
2 use of warning lights with (~~three hundred sixty~~) 360 degree
3 visibility;

4 (d) A police vehicle properly and lawfully displaying a flashing,
5 blinking, or alternating emergency light or lights; or

6 (e) A stationary or slow moving highway construction vehicle,
7 highway maintenance vehicle, solid waste vehicle, or utility service
8 vehicle making use of flashing lights that meet the requirements of
9 RCW 46.37.300 or warning lights with (~~three hundred sixty~~) 360
10 degree visibility.

11 (2) The driver of any motor vehicle, upon approaching an
12 emergency or work zone, shall:

13 (a) On a highway having four or more lanes, at least two of which
14 are intended for traffic proceeding in the same direction as the
15 approaching vehicle, proceed with caution, reduce the speed of the
16 vehicle, and, if the opportunity exists, with due regard for safety
17 and traffic conditions, yield the right-of-way by making a lane
18 change or moving away from the lane or shoulder occupied by an
19 emergency or work zone vehicle identified in subsection (1) of this
20 section;

21 (b) On a highway having less than four lanes, proceed with
22 caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle, and, if the opportunity
23 exists, with due regard for safety and traffic conditions, and under
24 the rules of this chapter, yield the right-of-way by passing to the
25 left at a safe distance and simultaneously yield the right-of-way to
26 all vehicles traveling in the proper direction upon the highway; or

27 (c) If changing lanes or moving away would be unsafe, proceed
28 with due caution and continue to reduce the speed of the vehicle to
29 at least (~~ten~~) 10 miles per hour below the posted speed limit,
30 except for when the posted speed limit exceeds 60 miles per hour or
31 more, then reduce the speed of the vehicle to 50 miles per hour or
32 lower.

33 (3) A person may not drive a vehicle in an emergency or work zone
34 at a speed greater than the posted speed limit or greater than what
35 is permitted under subsection (2)(c) of this section.

36 (4) A person found to be in violation of this section, or any
37 infraction relating to speed restrictions in an emergency or work
38 zone, must be assessed a monetary penalty equal to twice the penalty
39 assessed under RCW 46.63.110. This penalty may not be waived,
40 reduced, or suspended.

1 (5) A person who drives a vehicle in an emergency or work zone in
2 such a manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any emergency
3 or work zone worker or property is guilty of reckless endangerment of
4 emergency or work zone workers. A violation of this subsection is a
5 gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

6 (6) The department shall suspend for (~~sixty~~) 60 days the
7 driver's license, permit to drive, or nonresident driving privilege
8 of a person convicted of reckless endangerment of emergency or work
9 zone workers.

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 46.08
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 The department shall develop an appropriate training module
13 relating to the requirements of RCW 46.61.212, for inclusion in all
14 new driver training curricula.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 46.20
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The department shall provide each driver's license,
18 identicard, instruction permit, intermediate license, and commercial
19 driver's license applicant with written materials regarding the
20 contents and requirements of RCW 46.61.212, the slow down and move
21 over law, at the completion of the applicant's licensing transaction.

22 (2) The department shall place signage in each of the licensing
23 service offices that provide background on the written materials that
24 the applicant will receive regarding the slow down and move over law.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 47.04
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 The department shall substantially increase the use of roadway
28 signage and electronic display sign boards along roadways in the
29 state to reflect the requirements and penalties associated with a
30 violation of RCW 46.61.212.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. By January 31, 2023, the department of
32 licensing and the Washington traffic safety commission, working
33 independently or in collaboration or both, shall develop a statewide
34 public awareness campaign to inform and educate Washington citizens
35 about the slow down and move over law, RCW 46.61.212. The educational
36 campaign must include the use of public service announcements and

1 written and digital informative and educational materials distributed
2 by all reasonable means possible. The department of licensing and the
3 Washington traffic safety commission, working independently or in
4 collaboration or both, shall develop the public awareness campaign
5 using all available resources, as well as federal and other grant
6 funds that may, from time to time, become available.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Section 4 of this act takes effect October
8 1, 2023.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Section 5 of this act takes effect October
10 30, 2022."

11 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Removes the authority for fire department vehicles to
operate rear-facing blue lights.

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