

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 5687**

Chapter 235, Laws of 2022

67th Legislature  
2022 Regular Session

TRAFFIC SAFETY—VARIOUS PROVISIONS

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 9, 2022

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2022  
Yeas 27 Nays 22

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 3, 2022  
Yeas 55 Nays 42

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved March 30, 2022 2:53 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5687** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

**Secretary**

FILED

March 31, 2022

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SENATE BILL 5687**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2022 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senators C. Wilson, Liias, Billig, Das, Nguyen, Pedersen, Saldaña, and Stanford

Prefiled 01/05/22. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to certain traffic safety improvements; amending  
2 RCW 46.61.415 and 46.61.405; and reenacting and amending RCW  
3 46.61.250.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.415 and 2013 c 264 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Whenever local authorities in their respective jurisdictions  
8 determine on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation  
9 that the maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400 or 46.61.440 is  
10 greater or less than is reasonable and safe under the conditions  
11 found to exist upon a highway or part of a highway, the local  
12 authority may determine and declare a reasonable and safe maximum  
13 limit thereon which

14 (a) Decreases the limit at intersections; or

15 (b) Increases the limit but not to more than (~~sixty~~) 60 miles  
16 per hour; or

17 (c) Decreases the limit but not to less than (~~twenty~~) 20 miles  
18 per hour.

19 (2) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall  
20 determine by an engineering and traffic investigation the proper  
21 maximum speed for all arterial streets and shall declare a reasonable

1 and safe maximum limit thereon which may be greater or less than the  
2 maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400(2) but shall not exceed  
3 (~~sixty~~) 60 miles per hour.

4 (3) (a) (~~Cities and towns~~) Local authorities in their respective  
5 jurisdictions may establish a maximum speed limit of (~~twenty~~) 20  
6 miles per hour on a nonarterial highway(~~(7)~~) or part of a nonarterial  
7 highway(~~(, that is within a residence district or business~~  
8 ~~district)~~).

9 (b) A speed limit established under this subsection by a (~~city~~  
10 ~~or town~~) local authority does not need to be determined on the basis  
11 of an engineering and traffic investigation if the (~~city or town~~)  
12 local authority has developed procedures regarding establishing a  
13 maximum speed limit under this subsection. Any speed limit  
14 established under this subsection may be canceled within one year of  
15 its establishment, and the previous speed limit reestablished,  
16 without an engineering and traffic investigation. This subsection  
17 does not otherwise affect the requirement that (~~cities and towns~~)  
18 local authorities conduct an engineering and traffic investigation to  
19 determine whether to increase speed limits.

20 (c) When establishing speed limits under this subsection,  
21 (~~cities and towns~~) local authorities shall consult the manual on  
22 uniform traffic control devices as adopted by the Washington state  
23 department of transportation.

24 (4) The secretary of transportation is authorized to establish  
25 speed limits on county roads and city and town streets as shall be  
26 necessary to conform with any federal requirements which are a  
27 prescribed condition for the allocation of federal funds to the  
28 state.

29 (5) Any altered limit established as hereinbefore authorized  
30 shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are  
31 erected. Such maximum speed limit may be declared to be effective at  
32 all times or at such times as are indicated upon such signs; and  
33 differing limits may be established for different times of day,  
34 different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other  
35 factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective when posted  
36 upon appropriate fixed or variable signs.

37 (6) Any alteration of maximum limits on state highways within  
38 incorporated cities or towns by local authorities shall not be  
39 effective until such alteration has been approved by the secretary of  
40 transportation.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.61.405 and 1987 c 397 s 3 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Whenever the secretary of transportation shall determine upon  
4 the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that any  
5 maximum speed hereinbefore set forth is greater than is reasonable or  
6 safe with respect to a state highway under the conditions found to  
7 exist at any intersection or upon any other part of the state highway  
8 system or at state ferry terminals, or that a general reduction of  
9 any maximum speed set forth in RCW 46.61.400 is necessary in order to  
10 comply with a national maximum speed limit, the secretary may  
11 determine and declare a reasonable and safe lower maximum limit or a  
12 lower maximum limit which will comply with a national maximum speed  
13 limit, for any state highway, the entire state highway system, or any  
14 portion thereof, which shall be effective when appropriate signs  
15 giving notice thereof are erected. The secretary may also fix and  
16 regulate the speed of vehicles on any state highway within the  
17 maximum speed limit allowed by this chapter for special occasions  
18 including, but not limited to, local parades and other special  
19 events. Any such maximum speed limit may be declared to be effective  
20 at all times or at such times as are indicated upon the said signs;  
21 and differing limits may be established for different times of day,  
22 different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other  
23 factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective (a)  
24 (~~(1)~~) when posted upon appropriate fixed or variable signs or (b)  
25 (~~(2)~~) if a maximum limit is established for auto stages which is  
26 lower than the limit for automobiles, the auto stage speed limit  
27 shall become effective (~~(thirty)~~) 30 days after written notice  
28 thereof is mailed in the manner provided in (~~subsection (4) of~~) RCW  
29 46.61.410(4), as now or hereafter amended.

30       (2) The secretary of transportation may establish a maximum speed  
31 limit of 20 miles per hour on a nonarterial state highway, or part of  
32 a nonarterial state highway, without a determination made on the  
33 basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, subject to the  
34 conditions described in RCW 46.61.415(3).

35       **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.61.250 and 2019 c 403 s 9 and 2019 c 214 s 14 are  
36 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

37       (1) Where sidewalks are provided and are accessible, it is  
38 unlawful for any pedestrian to walk or otherwise move along and upon  
39 an adjacent roadway. Where sidewalks are provided but wheelchair

1 access is not available, persons with disabilities who require such  
2 access may walk or otherwise move along and upon an adjacent roadway  
3 until they reach an access point in the sidewalk.

4 (2) Where sidewalks are not provided or are inaccessible, a  
5 pedestrian walking or otherwise moving along and upon a highway, and  
6 any personal delivery device moving along and upon a highway, shall:

7 (a) When shoulders are provided and are accessible, walk or move  
8 on the shoulder of the roadway as far as is practicable from the edge  
9 of the roadway, facing traffic when a shoulder is available in this  
10 direction; or

11 (b) When shoulders are not provided or are inaccessible, walk or  
12 move as near as is practicable to the outside edge of the roadway  
13 facing traffic, and when practicable, move clear of the roadway upon  
14 meeting an oncoming vehicle.

15 (3) A pedestrian traveling to the nearest emergency reporting  
16 device on a one-way roadway of a controlled access highway is not  
17 required to travel facing traffic as otherwise required by subsection  
18 (2) of this section.

19 (4) When walking or otherwise moving along and upon an adjacent  
20 roadway, a pedestrian shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with  
21 any vehicle upon the roadway.

22 (5) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply when the  
23 roadway is duly closed to vehicular traffic by placement of official  
24 traffic control devices for the sole purposes of pedestrian and  
25 bicyclist use of the roadway.

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2022.

Passed by the House March 3, 2022.

Approved by the Governor March 30, 2022.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 31, 2022.

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