**Washington State**
**House of Representatives**
**Office of Program Research**

# BILL ANALYSIS

# Community Safety Committee

# HB 1101

**Brief Description:** Concerning vehicular homicide offenses.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Jacobsen and Klicker.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Designates Vehicular Homicide as both a violent offense and a most serious offense, regardless of which statutorily enumerated circumstance applies to the commission of the offense.

**Hearing Date:** 1/21/25

**Staff:** Corey Patton (786-7388).

**Background:**

A driver of a motor vehicle commits Vehicular Homicide if the death of any person ensues within three years as a proximate result of injury proximately caused by the driver's operation of the motor vehicle under any of the following three enumerated circumstances:

- while under the influence of an intoxicating liquor or any drug;
- in a reckless manner; or
- with disregard for the safety of others.

Vehicular Homicide is a class A felony ranked at either seriousness level XI or VII, depending on which of the three enumerated circumstances applies.

Under state law, felony offenses are categorized as either violent or nonviolent. A felony offense may also be designated as a most serious offense (sometimes referred to as a "strike offense"). If a person is convicted of a most serious offense and has at least two prior and separate

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convictions for most serious offenses, the person is considered a persistent offender and must be sentenced to life in prison. Any class A felony is categorically both a violent offense and a most serious offense. Additionally, Vehicular Homicide is specifically designated by statute as both a violent offense and a most serious offense if committed while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or in a reckless manner.

**Summary of Bill:**

Vehicular Homicide is specifically designated as both a violent offense and a most serious offense, regardless of which statutorily enumerated circumstance applies to the commission of the offense.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 15, 2025.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.