

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1244

As of March 31, 2025

Title: An act relating to training as an alternative to driver license suspension for the accumulation of certain traffic infractions.

Brief Description: Concerning training as an alternative to driver license suspension for the accumulation of certain traffic infractions.

Sponsors: House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representative Wylie; by request of Department of Licensing).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/3/25, 57-40.

Committee Activity: Law & Justice: 3/17/25, 3/20/25 [DP-TRAN, w/oRec].
Transportation: 3/31/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Licensing (DOL) to terminate a 60-day driver's license suspension early for three or more moving violations in a one-year period, or four or more violations in a two-year period, when a person completes a safe driving course approved by DOL.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Majority Report: Do pass and be referred to Committee on Transportation.

Signed by Senators Dhingra, Chair; Trudeau, Vice Chair; Lovick, Salomon and Valdez.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Holy, Ranking Member; Fortunato, Torres and Wagoner.

Staff: Joe McKittrick (786-7287)

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: When a person commits a moving violation on three or more occasions within a one-year period, or on four or more occasions within a two-year period, the Department of Licensing (DOL) is required to suspend that person's driver's license for 60 days and to set a probation period of one year beginning from the date the driver's license suspension ends. Additionally, the person must surrender their suspended license to DOL. Prior to reinstatement of a driver's license, the person must complete a safe driving course approved by DOL. In order to have a suspended license reinstated, the driver must provide DOL proof of car insurance and pay a \$20 license replacement fee.

It is a violation of the driver's license probation if the person is convicted of any additional traffic infractions for moving violations. Such a conviction will also result in an additional 30-day license suspension.

DOL is required to send a person notice that an additional infraction will result in their driver's license being suspended for 60 days when the person has committed a moving violation on two occasions within a one-year period or on three occasions within a two-year period.

Summary of Bill: When DOL sends notice that a person's driver's license will be suspended for committing three or more moving violations within a one-year period, or four or more moving violations within a two-year period, any time after receipt of the notice the person may have their license reinstated by providing proof of completion of a safe driving course, meeting any applicable car insurance requirements, and paying any applicable licensing fees. Once a person's license is reinstated the person is subject to a one-year license probation.

Early driver's license suspension termination for safe driving course completion may only be granted once every five years. A person is not eligible for early reinstatement for a probation violation that occurs during the period of probation.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on April 1, 2026.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Law & Justice): PRO: This is a modest change in the law that will allow someone to avoid a suspension of their license by taking a safe

driving course, but this still requires a probation period after their license is reinstated. More and more people are delaying taking driver's education because of the cost which results in drivers who are not as well informed on the rules of the road. If providing a training class early on can ensure safer drivers, it is a reasonable path. This will help prevent riskier behavior later on. Eight hundred and ten lives were lost on Washington roads last year, and drivers with suspended licenses are a clear danger. Educational interventions are the best tools to change risky driving behavior. This bill will help address one of the most dangerous roadway risks and help save lives.

Persons Testifying (Law & Justice): PRO: Representative Sharon Wylie, Prime Sponsor; Alaina Dahlquist, National Safety Council; Alejandro Sanchez, Department of Licensing.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Law & Justice): No one.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Transportation): PRO: This is a DOL request bill. Most laws make driving more and more strict, but a driver's license suspension may be for a relatively minor offense. Suspensions make the traffic laws real for drivers. But suspensions can disrupt drivers' lives and the safe driving course option under this bill would allow drivers to become safer drivers rather than just penalizing people. The bill addresses minor traffic violations and provides a one-time off-ramp for drivers to address their driving skills. The bill does not absolve violators of their traffic tickets and still comes with a one-year probation. The bill provides an effective mechanism for correcting driving skills. Safe driving courses have a good record in that roughly 80 percent of attendees do not have repeat violations.

Persons Testifying (Transportation): PRO: Representative Sharon Wylie, Prime Sponsor; Alejandro Sanchez, Department of Licensing.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Transportation): No one.