
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2174

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By House Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Klicker, Barnard, Stuebe, Schmidt, Connors, Eslick, and Barkis)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing accident risk zones; amending RCW
2 36.89.030; adding a new section to chapter 46.61 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 35.77 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The legislative body of a county, city, or town, or the
8 secretary of the department of transportation may create a crash
9 prevention zone within its jurisdiction by identifying public roads
10 where there have been a multitude of collisions that have caused
11 serious injuries or fatalities to provide time for authorities to
12 investigate and implement safety improvements in the designated
13 areas. A county, with the approval of a city or town, may designate a
14 crash prevention zone that includes public roads within the county
15 and city or town. A county, city, or town may designate a crash
16 prevention zone that includes roadways managed by the department of
17 transportation with the approval of the department of transportation.
18 The department of transportation may designate a crash prevention
19 zone on a state highway without the approval of a county, city, or
20 town.

1 (b) Prior to the final establishment of a crash prevention zone,
2 the department of transportation, county, city, or town must hold a
3 public hearing where members of the public may view and comment on a
4 map of the designated crash prevention zone.

5 (2) Once a crash prevention zone has been designated, the
6 jurisdiction that established the zone or the department of
7 transportation must conduct an engineering and traffic investigation
8 of the public roads in the zone to identify safety improvements,
9 including adjustments to the speed limits.

10 (3) The Washington state patrol and local law enforcement
11 agencies must coordinate increased enforcement of traffic laws within
12 the crash prevention zone in a manner intended to reduce accidents in
13 the crash prevention zone.

14 (4) (a) A person found to have committed any traffic infraction
15 relating to speed restrictions in a crash prevention zone or
16 infraction with a vehicle collision in a crash prevention zone shall
17 be assessed a monetary penalty of \$73, so long as signs stating that
18 penalties are increased are posted notifying drivers of the increased
19 penalties on the particular roadway in the crash prevention zone
20 where the traffic infraction occurred.

21 (b) \$73 of the monetary penalties for traffic infractions related
22 to speed restrictions or infractions with a vehicle collision issued
23 within the crash prevention zone must be deposited into an account
24 created for the crash prevention zone that may be used to pay for the
25 engineering and traffic investigation, creation and installation of
26 road signs, safety improvements, and increased law enforcement
27 presence in the crash prevention zone. This account must be
28 administered and maintained by the jurisdiction in which the
29 infraction occurred.

30 (5) The crash prevention zone must be dissolved once safety
31 improvements have been implemented. Furthermore, the crash prevention
32 zone may be dissolved at the discretion of the city, county, or
33 department of transportation that created the zone, at the
34 recommendation of the department of transportation to a city or
35 county, or by a petition of 10 percent of the property owners,
36 residents, or business owners with property that abuts or is within
37 the crash prevention zone that is presented to the city, county, or
38 department of transportation that created the zone.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.77
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 Cities and towns are authorized to establish crash prevention
4 zones in accordance with section 1 of this act.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.89.030 and 1984 c 7 s 42 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 Counties are authorized to establish, acquire, develop,
8 construct, and improve open space, park, recreation, and community
9 facilities, public health and safety facilities, stormwater control
10 facilities, and highways or any of them pursuant to the provisions of
11 this chapter within and without the cities and towns of the county
12 and for such purposes have the power to acquire lands, buildings and
13 other facilities by gift, grant, purchase, condemnation, lease,
14 devise, and bequest, to construct, improve, or maintain buildings,
15 structures, and facilities necessary for such purposes, and to use
16 and develop for such purposes the air rights over and the subsurface
17 rights under any highway. The approval of the state department of
18 transportation shall be first secured for such use and development of
19 any state highway. For visual or sound buffer purposes the county
20 shall not acquire by condemnation less than an owner's entire
21 interest or right in the particular real property to be so acquired
22 if the owner objects to the taking of a lesser interest or right.
23 Counties are authorized to establish crash prevention zones in
24 accordance with section 1 of this act.

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