
HOUSE BILL 2174

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Klicker, Barnard, Stuebe, Schmidt, Connors, Eslick, and Barkis

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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 an accident
9 risk zone identifying public roads where there have been a multitude
10 of accidents to provide time for authorities to investigate and
11 implement safety improvements in the designated areas. A county, with
12 the approval of a city or town, may designate an accident risk zone
13 that includes roadways that include public roads within the county
14 and city or town.

15 (b) Prior to the final establishment of an accident risk zone,
16 the department of transportation, county, city, or town must hold a
17 public hearing where members of the public may view and comment on a
18 map of the designated accident risk zone.

19 (2) Once an accident risk zone has been designated, the
20 jurisdiction that established the zone or the department of
21 transportation must conduct an engineering and traffic investigation

1 of the public roads in the zone to identify safety improvements,
2 including adjustments to the speed limits.

3 (3) The Washington state patrol and local law enforcement
4 agencies must coordinate increased enforcement of traffic laws within
5 the accident risk zone in a manner intended to reduce accident risks.

6 (4)(a) A person found to have committed any traffic infraction
7 relating to speed restrictions or infraction associated with a
8 vehicle collision in an accident risk zone shall be assessed a
9 monetary penalty equal to twice the penalty assessed under
10 RCW 46.63.110, so long as signs stating that penalties are doubled
11 are posted notifying drivers of the increased penalties on the
12 particular roadway in the accident risk zone where the traffic
13 infraction occurred.

14 (b) One-half of the amount of penalties that have been doubled
15 for traffic infractions issued within the accident risk zone must be
16 deposited into an account created for the accident risk zone that may
17 be used to pay for the engineering and traffic investigation,
18 creation and installation of road signs, safety improvements, and
19 increased law enforcement presence in the accident risk zone.

20 (5) The accident risk zone must be dissolved once safety
21 improvements have been implemented. Furthermore, the accident risk
22 zone may be dissolved at the discretion of the city, county, or
23 department of transportation that created the zone, at the
24 recommendation of the department of transportation to a city or
25 county, or by a petition of 10 percent of the property owners,
26 residents, or business owners with property that abuts or is within
27 the accident risk zone that is presented to the city, county, or
28 department of transportation that created the zone.

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

31 Cities and towns are authorized to establish accident risk zones
32 in accordance with section 1 of this act.

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

35 Counties are authorized to establish, acquire, develop,
36 construct, and improve open space, park, recreation, and community
37 facilities, public health and safety facilities, stormwater control
38 facilities, and highways or any of them pursuant to the provisions of

1 this chapter within and without the cities and towns of the county
2 and for such purposes have the power to acquire lands, buildings and
3 other facilities by gift, grant, purchase, condemnation, lease,
4 devise, and bequest, to construct, improve, or maintain buildings,
5 structures, and facilities necessary for such purposes, and to use
6 and develop for such purposes the air rights over and the subsurface
7 rights under any highway. The approval of the state department of
8 transportation shall be first secured for such use and development of
9 any state highway. For visual or sound buffer purposes the county
10 shall not acquire by condemnation less than an owner's entire
11 interest or right in the particular real property to be so acquired
12 if the owner objects to the taking of a lesser interest or right.
13 Counties are authorized to establish accident risk zones in
14 accordance with section 1 of this act.

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