
HOUSE BILL 2410

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Fey, Barkis, Hall, Zahn, Reed, and Donaghy

Read first time 01/13/26. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a commercial truck safety and
2 education council; amending RCW 46.17.315; adding a new section to
3 chapter 43.59 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.68 RCW; and
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

7 (a) The trucking industry is an essential part of our everyday
8 lives. The trucking industry facilitates essential economic activity,
9 including through the transport of goods for logistics, e-commerce,
10 construction, agriculture, by driving economic growth, creating jobs,
11 and enabling the movement of raw materials and finished products for
12 all sectors. Trucks are vital for businesses to operate efficiently,
13 reach customers, and meet supply chain demands.

14 (b) In Washington, the trucking industry contributes
15 significantly to state and federal roadway taxes owed by Washington
16 motorists. In 2024, trucks accounted for 8.8 percent of the miles
17 driven upon Washington roadways. The trucking industry accounts for
18 over 170,000 jobs in Washington. Eighty percent of communities in
19 Washington depend exclusively on trucks to move their goods.

20 (c) The importance of collecting and evaluating data related to
21 commercial vehicle collisions and safety incidents throughout

1 Washington state. Over the last 10 years, Washingtonians have seen an
2 uptick in collisions involving large trucks, underscoring the urgent
3 need for targeted strategies to improve roadway safety. According to
4 the Washington traffic safety commission, commercial vehicles were
5 involved in an increasing percentage of fatal and serious injury
6 crashes, with factors such as distracted driving, driver fatigue, and
7 inadequate training contributing to these incidents. Through robust
8 safety initiatives and ongoing evaluation, the legislature aims to
9 focus efforts on a reduction in these crash rates and enhancement of
10 the overall safety of Washington's transportation network.

11 (d) The Washington state trucking industry faces many challenges,
12 including challenges related to workforce development, highway
13 safety, highway planning, and public education. A coordinated and
14 focused mechanism is critical to promote education, training,
15 research, and development for enhanced safety and efficiency within
16 the industry. Such a system provides for better communication between
17 industry, the public, enforcement agencies, local government, and the
18 legislature, to enhance the safe, efficient delivery of goods and
19 services and to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and
20 activities.

21 (2) It is the intent of this act to establish the Washington
22 state commercial truck safety and education council, hereinafter
23 referred to as the "council," to deliver programs and projects to
24 advance state interests in roadway safety and improve the safety of
25 the commercial truck industry through cooperative public-private
26 programs that focus on examining crash trends and evidence-based best
27 practices in driver education, improved regulatory compliance,
28 industry training, and educational programs to drive the safe
29 movement of goods on Washington state highways. It is also the intent
30 of the legislature to ensure that adequate funding is provided to
31 implement this act to improve safety and efficiency in the trucking
32 industry.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.59
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 (1) The Washington state commercial truck safety and education
36 council is established in the Washington traffic safety commission to
37 deliver programs and projects that improve the safety of the
38 commercial truck industry through cooperative public-private programs
39 that focus on examining crash trends and evidence-based best

1 practices in driver education, improved regulatory compliance,
2 industry training, and educational programs. The council shall
3 consist of the following members, appointed by the governor:

4 (a) The chief of the Washington state patrol, or the chief's
5 designee;

6 (b) The director of the department of licensing, or the
7 director's designee;

8 (c) The secretary of the department of transportation, or the
9 secretary's designee;

10 (d) The executive director of the Washington trucking
11 associations or the executive director's designee;

12 (e) The director of the Washington traffic safety commission, or
13 the director's designee;

14 (f) The executive director of the Washington state board for
15 community and technical colleges, or the executive director's
16 designee;

17 (g) One member of the general public;

18 (h) Three members from a trucking industry association or
19 associations as representatives of the trucking industry, with
20 consideration given to a list of six nominees representative of the
21 trucking industry submitted by the Washington trucking association.

22 (2) In addition, the council may, where feasible, consult with
23 other governmental entities or individuals from the public and
24 private sector who have a unique interest or expertise in commercial
25 vehicle safety, training, and efficient operations.

26 (3) The Washington state commercial truck safety and education
27 council must meet at least quarterly. The council shall initially
28 convene at the call of the director of the Washington traffic safety
29 commission, or the director's designee, no later than the third
30 Monday in January 2027. Subsequent meetings of the council shall be
31 at the call of the chair or six members.

32 (a) The council shall annually elect a chair and other such
33 officers as it deems appropriate from its membership.

34 (b) Members of the council shall serve terms of four years each
35 on a staggered schedule to be established by the first council. For
36 purposes of initiating a staggered schedule of terms, some members of
37 the first council may initially serve two years and some members may
38 initially serve four years.

39 (4) (a) The Washington state commercial truck safety and education
40 council may exercise powers necessary, pertinent, convenient, or

1 incidental to carrying out its purposes including, but not limited
2 to, the following:

3 (i) Development of programs and projects that carry out the
4 purpose of the council including, but not limited to, enhancing
5 safety and training, providing for research and development, and
6 educating the public;

7 (ii) Providing for the payment of council costs with funds
8 designed for this use under RCW 46.17.315(2);

9 (iii) Coordination of council activities with industry
10 associations, and others as appropriate, to provide efficient
11 delivery of services and to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts
12 and activities;

13 (iv) Authority to contract with any public or private person,
14 partnership, association, or corporation to carry out the purpose of
15 the council;

16 (v) Authority to apply for, receive, and accept grants, loans,
17 advances, and contributions from any source of money, property,
18 labor, or other things of value, to be held, used, and applied for
19 the council's purposes;

20 (vi) Authority to enter into cooperative endeavor agreements with
21 the trucking foundation of Washington, or its successor entity, a
22 nonprofit corporation, for the use of staff and resources to carry
23 out the powers and duties of the council; and

24 (vii) Authority to provide grants targeted at improving
25 commercial motor vehicle safety and training.

26 (b) The council shall control the expenditures of the commercial
27 truck safety and education account created in section 4 of this act.
28 Not more than five percent of the money deposited in the commercial
29 truck safety and education account may be expended for administrative
30 expenses related to use of the account.

31 (5) Beginning December 31, 2027, the council shall annually
32 report its activities, findings, and recommendations during the
33 preceding year to the transportation committees of the legislature by
34 December 31st.

35 (6) The council may solicit and accept gifts, grants, bequests,
36 devises, or other funds from public and private sources to support
37 its activities.

38 (7) The governor may remove any member of the Washington state
39 commercial truck safety and education council for cause including,
40 but not limited to, neglect of duty, misconduct, malfeasance or

1 misfeasance in office, or upon written request of two-thirds of the
2 members of the council. Upon the death, resignation, or removal of a
3 member, the governor shall appoint a replacement to fill the
4 remainder of the unexpired term.

5 (8) Members of the Washington state commercial truck safety and
6 education council who are not public employees shall be compensated
7 in accordance with RCW 43.03.250 and shall be reimbursed for travel
8 expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the council in
9 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

10 (9) (a) Documents prepared by or for the council are inadmissible
11 and may not be used in a civil or administrative proceeding, except
12 that any document that exists before its use or consideration in a
13 review by the council, or that is created independently of such
14 review, does not become inadmissible merely because it is reviewed or
15 used by the council. For confidential information, such as personally
16 identifiable information and medical records, which are obtained by
17 the council, the council may not publicly disclose such confidential
18 information. No person who was in attendance at a meeting of the
19 council or who participated in the creation, retention, collection,
20 or maintenance of information or documents specifically for the
21 council shall be permitted to testify in any civil action as to the
22 content of such proceedings or of the documents and information
23 prepared specifically as part of the activities of the council.
24 However, recommendations from the council may be disclosed without
25 personal identifiers.

26 (b) The council may review, only to the extent otherwise
27 permitted by law or court rule when determined to be relevant and
28 necessary: Any law enforcement incident documentation, such as
29 incident reports, dispatch records, and victim, witness, and suspect
30 statements; any supplemental reports, probable cause statements, and
31 911 call taker's reports; and any other information determined to be
32 relevant to the review. The council must maintain the confidentiality
33 of such information to the extent required by any applicable law.

34 (10) If acting in good faith, without malice, and within the
35 parameters of and protocols established under this chapter,
36 representatives of the council are immune from civil liability for an
37 activity related to reviews of particular fatalities and serious
38 injuries.

39 (11) This section must not be construed to provide a private
40 civil cause of action.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.17.315 and 2011 c 171 s 60 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) Before accepting an application for a motor vehicle base
4 plated in the state of Washington that is subject to highway
5 inspections and compliance reviews by the Washington state patrol
6 under RCW 46.32.080 or the international registration plan if base
7 plated in a foreign jurisdiction, the department, county auditor or
8 other agent, or subagent appointed by the director shall require the
9 applicant to pay a (~~sixteen-dollar~~) \$32 commercial vehicle safety
10 enforcement fee in addition to any other fees and taxes required by
11 law. The (~~sixteen-dollar~~) \$32 fee:

12 (a) Must be apportioned for those vehicles operating interstate
13 and registered under the international registration plan;

14 (b) Does not apply to trailers; and

15 (c) Is not refundable when the motor vehicle is no longer subject
16 to RCW 46.32.080.

17 (2) The department may deduct an amount equal to the cost of
18 administering the program. All remaining fees must be deposited with
19 the state treasurer and credited in equal proportions to the state
20 patrol highway account of the motor vehicle fund created in RCW
21 46.68.070 and the commercial truck safety and education account
22 created in section 4 of this act.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.68
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 The commercial truck safety and education account is created in
26 the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts directed to this
27 account in RCW 46.17.315(2) must be deposited in the account.
28 Expenditures from the account may be used only for commercial vehicle
29 safety and training improvement activities, administrative support,
30 and grant projects or programs administered by the Washington state
31 commercial truck safety and education council created in section 2 of
32 this act. Only the director of the Washington traffic safety
33 commission or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from
34 the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under
35 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
36 expenditures.

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