
SENATE BILL 5238

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Muzzall, Lovick, Saldaña, Shewmake, Trudeau, Wagoner, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to reckless driving in cases involving excessive
2 speed; amending RCW 46.61.500; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.500 and 2020 c 330 s 14 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) ~~((Any person who drives any vehicle in))~~ (a) A person is
7 guilty of reckless driving if the person drives a vehicle:

8 (i) In willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or
9 property ((is guilty of reckless driving)); or

10 (ii) Intentionally more than 30 miles per hour over the posted
11 speed limit.

12 (b) Violation of the provisions of this section is a gross
13 misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to ((three hundred
14 sixty-four)) 364 days and by a fine of not more than ((five thousand
15 dollars)) \$5,000.

16 (2)(a) Subject to (b) of this subsection, the license or permit
17 to drive or any nonresident privilege of any person convicted of
18 reckless driving shall be suspended by the department for not less
19 than ((thirty)) 30 days.

20 (b) When a reckless driving conviction is a result of a charge
21 that was originally filed as a violation of RCW 46.61.502 or

1 46.61.504, or an equivalent local ordinance, the department shall
2 grant credit on a day-for-day basis for any portion of a suspension,
3 revocation, or denial already served under an administrative action
4 arising out of the same incident. In the case of a person whose day-
5 for-day credit is for a period equal to or greater than the period of
6 suspension required under this section, the department shall provide
7 notice of full credit, shall provide for no further suspension under
8 this section, and shall impose no additional reissue fees for this
9 credit. During any period of suspension, revocation, or denial due to
10 a conviction for reckless driving as the result of a charge
11 originally filed as a violation of RCW 46.61.502 or 46.61.504, any
12 person who has obtained an ignition interlock driver's license under
13 RCW 46.20.385 may continue to drive a motor vehicle pursuant to the
14 provision of the ignition interlock driver's license without
15 obtaining a separate temporary restricted driver's license under RCW
16 46.20.391.

17 (3) (a) Except as provided under (b) of this subsection, a person
18 convicted of reckless driving who has one or more prior offenses as
19 defined in RCW 46.61.5055(14) within seven years shall be required,
20 under RCW 46.20.720, to install an ignition interlock device on all
21 vehicles operated by the person if the conviction is the result of a
22 charge that was originally filed as a violation of RCW 46.61.502,
23 46.61.504, or an equivalent local ordinance.

24 (b) A person convicted of reckless driving shall be required,
25 under RCW 46.20.720, to install an ignition interlock device on all
26 vehicles operated by the person if the conviction is the result of a
27 charge that was originally filed as a violation of RCW 46.61.520
28 committed while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any
29 drug or RCW 46.61.522 committed while under the influence of
30 intoxicating liquor or any drug.

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