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**SENATE BILL 5717**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Lovick, King, Braun, Chapman, Cleveland, Cortes, Hasegawa, Liiias, Lovelett, Nobles, Orwall, Valdez, and J. Wilson

Read first time 02/10/25. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a driver work zone and first  
2 responder safety course requirement; amending RCW 46.20.075 and  
3 46.63.200; adding a new section to chapter 46.20 RCW; adding a new  
4 section to chapter 43.59 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.20  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) An applicant for a new driver's license under the age of 26  
9 must pass an online course approved by the department on driver work  
10 zone and first responder safety.

11 (2) The department may waive the requirement in subsection (1) of  
12 this section if the department finds the online course is not  
13 available at the time of application.

14 (3) For the purposes of this section, "new driver's license"  
15 means a driver's license issued to a driver who has not previously  
16 been issued a driver's license in this state.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.075 and 2024 c 162 s 1 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) An intermediate license authorizes the holder to drive a  
20 motor vehicle under the conditions specified in this section. An

1 applicant for an intermediate license must be at least 16 years of  
2 age and:

3 (a) Have possessed a valid instruction permit for a period of not  
4 less than six months;

5 (b) Have passed a driver licensing examination administered by  
6 the department;

7 (c) Have passed a course of driver's education in accordance with  
8 the standards established in RCW 46.20.100;

9 (d) Have met the applicable driver work zone and first responder  
10 safety course requirement under section 1 of this act;

11 (e) Present certification by his or her parent, guardian,  
12 employer, or responsible adult to the department stating (i) that the  
13 applicant has had at least 50 hours of driving experience, 10 of  
14 which were at night, during which the driver was supervised by a  
15 person at least 21 years of age who has had a valid driver's license  
16 for at least three years, and (ii) that the applicant has not been  
17 issued a notice of traffic infraction or cited for a traffic  
18 violation that is pending at the time of the application for the  
19 intermediate license;

20 (~~(e)~~) (f) Not have been convicted of or found to have committed  
21 a traffic violation within the last six months before the application  
22 for the intermediate license; and

23 (~~(f)~~) (g) Not have been adjudicated for an offense involving  
24 the use of alcohol or drugs during the period the applicant held an  
25 instruction permit.

26 (2) For the first six months after the issuance of an  
27 intermediate license or until the holder reaches 18 years of age,  
28 whichever occurs first, the holder of the license may not operate a  
29 motor vehicle that is carrying any passengers under the age of 20 who  
30 are not members of the holder's immediate family. For the remaining  
31 period of the intermediate license, the holder may not operate a  
32 motor vehicle that is carrying more than three passengers who are  
33 under the age of 20 who are not members of the holder's immediate  
34 family.

35 (3) The holder of an intermediate license may not operate a motor  
36 vehicle between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. except (a) when the  
37 holder is accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 25 years  
38 of age, or (b) for school, religious, or employment activities for  
39 the holder or a member of the holder's immediate family as defined in  
40 this section.

1 (4) The holder of an intermediate license may not operate a  
2 moving motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device  
3 unless the holder is using the device to report illegal activity,  
4 summon medical or other emergency help, or prevent injury to a person  
5 or property.

6 (5) It is a traffic infraction for the holder of an intermediate  
7 license to operate a motor vehicle in violation of the restrictions  
8 imposed under this section.

9 (6) Except for a violation of subsection (4) of this section,  
10 enforcement of this section by law enforcement officers may be  
11 accomplished only as a secondary action when a driver of a motor  
12 vehicle has been detained for a suspected violation of this title or  
13 an equivalent local ordinance or some other offense.

14 (7) An intermediate licensee may drive at any hour without  
15 restrictions on the number of passengers in the vehicle if necessary  
16 for agricultural purposes.

17 (8) An intermediate licensee may drive at any hour without  
18 restrictions on the number of passengers in the vehicle if, for the  
19 12-month period following the issuance of the intermediate license,  
20 he or she:

21 (a) Has not been involved in an accident involving only one motor  
22 vehicle;

23 (b) Has not been involved in an accident where he or she was  
24 cited in connection with the accident or was found to have caused the  
25 accident;

26 (c) Has not been involved in an accident where no one was cited  
27 or was found to have caused the accident; and

28 (d) Has not been convicted of or found to have committed a  
29 traffic offense described in chapter 46.61 RCW or violated  
30 restrictions placed on an intermediate licensee under this section.

31 (9) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions  
32 apply:

33 (a) "Immediate family" means an individual's spouse or domestic  
34 partner, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent,  
35 grandparent, brother, half-brother, sister, or half-sister of the  
36 individual, including foster children living in the household, and  
37 the spouse or the domestic partner of any such person, and a child,  
38 stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother,  
39 half-brother, sister, or half-sister of the individual's spouse or

1 domestic partner, and the spouse or the domestic partner of any such  
2 person.

3 (b) "Responsible adult" means a person specifically authorized by  
4 the department who is over the age of 21 and:

5 (i) Has a familial, kinship, or caretaker relationship to a  
6 minor;

7 (ii) Is an educational, medical, legal, social service, or  
8 Washington state licensed mental health professional who provides  
9 support directly to a minor in a professional capacity; or

10 (iii) Is an employee of a government entity and provides support  
11 to a minor in a professional capacity.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.59  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 The commission is required to contract with a provider of an  
15 online driver work zone and first responder safety course to host an  
16 online course that satisfies the intermediate driver's license  
17 requirement under section 1 of this act to be made available at no  
18 cost to Washington residents who are between the ages of 15 and 25.

19 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.63.200 and 2024 c 308 s 4 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) This section applies to the use of speed safety camera  
22 systems in state highway work zones.

23 (2) Nothing in this section prohibits a law enforcement officer  
24 from issuing a notice of infraction to a person in control of a  
25 vehicle at the time a violation occurs under RCW 46.63.030(1) (a),  
26 (b), or (c).

27 (3)(a) The department of transportation is responsible for all  
28 actions related to the operation and administration of speed safety  
29 camera systems in state highway work zones including, but not limited  
30 to, the procurement and administration of contracts necessary for the  
31 implementation of speed safety camera systems, the mailing of notices  
32 of infraction, and the development and maintenance of a public-facing  
33 website for the purpose of educating the traveling public about the  
34 use of speed safety camera systems in state highway work zones. Prior  
35 to the use of a speed safety camera system to capture a violation  
36 established in this section for enforcement purposes, the department  
37 of transportation, in consultation with the Washington state patrol,  
38 department of licensing, office of administrative hearings,

1 Washington traffic safety commission, and other organizations  
2 committed to protecting civil rights, must adopt rules addressing  
3 such actions and take all necessary steps to implement this section.

4 (b) The Washington state patrol is responsible for all actions  
5 related to the enforcement and adjudication of speed violations under  
6 this section including, but not limited to, notice of infraction  
7 verification and issuance authorization, and determining which types  
8 of emergency vehicles are exempt from being issued notices of  
9 infraction under this section. Prior to the use of a speed safety  
10 camera system to capture a violation established in this section for  
11 enforcement purposes, the Washington state patrol, in consultation  
12 with the department of transportation, department of licensing,  
13 office of administrative hearings, Washington traffic safety  
14 commission, and other organizations committed to protecting civil  
15 rights, must adopt rules addressing such actions and take all  
16 necessary steps to implement this section.

17 (c) When establishing rules under this subsection (3), the  
18 department of transportation and the Washington state patrol may also  
19 consult with other public and private agencies that have an interest  
20 in the use of speed safety camera systems in state highway work  
21 zones.

22 (4) (a) No person may drive a vehicle in a state highway work zone  
23 at a speed greater than that allowed by traffic control devices.

24 (b) A notice of infraction may only be issued under this section  
25 if a speed safety camera system captures a speed violation in a state  
26 highway work zone when workers are present.

27 (5) The penalty for a speed safety camera system violation is:  
28 (a) \$0 for the first violation; and (b) \$248 for the second  
29 violation, and for each violation thereafter.

30 (6) During the 30-day period after the first speed safety camera  
31 system is put in place, the department is required to conduct a  
32 public awareness campaign to inform the public of the use of speed  
33 safety camera systems in state highway work zones.

34 (7) (a) A notice of infraction issued under this section may be  
35 mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle within 30 days of the  
36 violation, or to the renter of a vehicle within 30 days of  
37 establishing the renter's name and address. The law enforcement  
38 officer issuing the notice of infraction shall include with it a  
39 certificate or facsimile thereof, based upon inspection of  
40 photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images produced by a

1 speed safety camera stating the facts supporting the notice of  
2 infraction. This certificate or facsimile is prima facie evidence of  
3 the facts contained in it and is admissible in a proceeding charging  
4 a violation under this section. The photographs, microphotographs, or  
5 electronic images evidencing the violation must be available for  
6 inspection and admission into evidence in a proceeding to adjudicate  
7 the liability for the violation.

8 (b) A notice of infraction represents a determination that an  
9 infraction has been committed, and the determination will be final  
10 unless contested as provided under this section.

11 (c) A person receiving a notice of infraction based on evidence  
12 detected by a speed safety camera system must, within 30 days of  
13 receiving the notice of infraction: (i) Except for a first violation  
14 under subsection (5)(a) of this section, remit payment in the amount  
15 of the penalty assessed for the violation; (ii) contest the  
16 determination that the infraction occurred by following the  
17 instructions on the notice of infraction; or (iii) admit to the  
18 infraction but request a hearing to explain mitigating circumstances  
19 surrounding the infraction.

20 (d) If a person fails to respond to a notice of infraction, a  
21 final order shall be entered finding that the person committed the  
22 infraction and assessing monetary penalties required under subsection  
23 (5)(b) of this section.

24 (e) If a person contests the determination that the infraction  
25 occurred or requests a mitigation hearing, the notice of infraction  
26 shall be referred to the office of administrative hearings for  
27 adjudication consistent with chapter 34.05 RCW.

28 (f) At a hearing to contest an infraction, the agency issuing the  
29 infraction has the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the  
30 evidence, that the infraction was committed.

31 (g) A person may request a payment plan at any time for the  
32 payment of any penalty or other monetary obligation associated with  
33 an infraction under this section. The agency issuing the infraction  
34 shall provide information about how to submit evidence of inability  
35 to pay, how to obtain a payment plan, and that failure to pay or  
36 enter into a payment plan may result in collection action or  
37 nonrenewal of the vehicle registration. The office of administrative  
38 hearings may authorize a payment plan if it determines that a person  
39 is not able to pay the monetary obligation, and it may modify a  
40 payment plan at any time.

1 (8) (a) Speed safety camera systems may only take photographs,  
2 microphotographs, or electronic images of the vehicle and vehicle  
3 license plate and only while a speed violation is occurring. The  
4 photograph, microphotograph, or electronic image must not reveal the  
5 face of the driver or any passengers in the vehicle. The department  
6 of transportation shall consider installing speed safety camera  
7 systems in a manner that minimizes the impact of camera flash on  
8 drivers.

9 (b) The registered owner of a vehicle is responsible for a  
10 traffic infraction under RCW 46.63.030 unless the registered owner  
11 overcomes the presumption in RCW 46.63.075 or, in the case of a  
12 rental car business, satisfies the conditions under (f) of this  
13 subsection. If appropriate under the circumstances, a renter  
14 identified under (f)(i) of this subsection is responsible for the  
15 traffic infraction.

16 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all photographs,  
17 microphotographs, or electronic images, or any other personally  
18 identifying data prepared under this section are for the exclusive  
19 use of the Washington state patrol and department of transportation  
20 in the discharge of duties under this section and are not open to the  
21 public and may not be used in court in a pending action or proceeding  
22 unless the action or proceeding relates to a speed violation under  
23 this section. This data may be used in administrative appeal  
24 proceedings relative to a violation under this section.

25 (d) All locations where speed safety camera systems are used must  
26 be clearly marked before activation of the camera system by placing  
27 signs in locations that clearly indicate to a driver that they are  
28 entering a state highway work zone where posted speed limits are  
29 monitored by a speed safety camera system. Additionally, where  
30 feasible and constructive, radar speed feedback signs will be placed  
31 in advance of the speed safety camera system to assist drivers in  
32 complying with posted speed limits. Signs placed in these locations  
33 must follow the specifications and guidelines under the manual of  
34 uniform traffic control devices for streets and highways as adopted  
35 by the department of transportation under chapter 47.36 RCW.

36 (e) Imposition of a penalty for a speed violation detected  
37 through the use of speed safety camera systems shall not be deemed a  
38 conviction as defined in RCW 46.25.010, and shall not be part of the  
39 registered owner's driving record under RCW 46.52.101 and 46.52.120.  
40 Additionally, infractions generated by the use of speed safety camera

1 systems under this section shall be processed in the same manner as  
2 parking infractions, including for the purposes of RCW 46.16A.120 and  
3 46.20.270(2).

4 (f) If the registered owner of the vehicle is a rental car  
5 business, the department of transportation shall, before a notice of  
6 infraction may be issued under this section, provide a written notice  
7 to the rental car business that a notice of infraction may be issued  
8 to the rental car business if the rental car business does not,  
9 within 30 days of receiving the written notice, provide to the  
10 issuing agency by return mail:

11 (i)(A) A statement under oath stating the name and known mailing  
12 address of the individual driving or renting the vehicle when the  
13 speed violation occurred;

14 (B) A statement under oath that the business is unable to  
15 determine who was driving or renting the vehicle at the time the  
16 speed violation occurred because the vehicle was stolen at the time  
17 of the violation. A statement provided under this subsection  
18 (8)(f)(i)(B) must be accompanied by a copy of a filed police report  
19 regarding the vehicle theft; or

20 (C) In lieu of identifying the vehicle operator, payment of the  
21 applicable penalty.

22 (ii) Timely mailing of a statement to the department of  
23 transportation relieves a rental car business of any liability under  
24 this chapter for the notice of infraction.

25 (9) Revenue generated from the deployment of speed safety camera  
26 systems must be deposited into the highway safety fund and first used  
27 exclusively for the operating and administrative costs under this  
28 section. The operation of speed safety camera systems is intended to  
29 increase safety in state highway work zones by changing driver  
30 behavior. Consequently, any revenue generated that exceeds the  
31 operating and administrative costs under this section must be  
32 distributed for the purpose of traffic safety including, but not  
33 limited to, driver training education, including to fund the online  
34 work zone and first responder safety course required under section 1  
35 of this act, and local DUI emphasis patrols.

36 (10) The Washington state patrol and department of  
37 transportation, in collaboration with the Washington traffic safety  
38 commission, must report to the transportation committees of the  
39 legislature by July 1, 2025, and biennially thereafter, on the data  
40 and efficacy of speed safety camera system use in state highway work



1 zones. The final report due on July 1, 2029, must include a  
2 recommendation on whether or not to continue such speed safety camera  
3 system use beyond June 30, 2030.

4 (11) For the purposes of this section:

5 (a) "Speed safety camera system" means employing the use of speed  
6 measuring devices and cameras synchronized to automatically record  
7 one or more sequenced photographs, microphotographs, or other  
8 electronic images of a motor vehicle that exceeds a posted state  
9 highway work zone speed limit as detected by the speed measuring  
10 devices.

11 (b) "State highway work zone" means an area of any highway with  
12 construction, maintenance, utility work, or incident response  
13 activities authorized by the department of transportation. A state  
14 highway work zone is identified by the placement of temporary traffic  
15 control devices that may include signs, channelizing devices,  
16 barriers, pavement markings, and/or work vehicles with warning  
17 lights. It extends from the first warning sign or high intensity  
18 rotating, flashing, oscillating, or strobe lights on a vehicle to the  
19 end road work sign or the last temporary traffic control device or  
20 vehicle.

21 (12) This section expires June 30, 2030.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect January 1, 2026.

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