
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6066

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Torres, Dozier, and J. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing crash prevention zones; amending
2 RCW 36.89.030; adding a new section to chapter 46.61 RCW; adding a
3 new 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. A county, city, or town or the
12 department of transportation may consider and implement safety
13 improvement approaches in designated crash prevention zones. A
14 county, with the approval of a city or town, may designate a crash
15 prevention zone that includes public roads within the county and city
16 or town. A county, city, or town may designate a crash prevention
17 zone that includes roadways managed by the department of
18 transportation with the approval of the department of transportation.
19 The department of transportation may designate a crash prevention
20 zone on a state highway without the approval of a county, city, or
21 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 must conduct an engineering
7 and traffic investigation of the public roads in the zone to identify
8 safety improvements, including adjustments to the speed limits. A
9 county, city, or town may contract with the department of
10 transportation to have the department conduct an engineering and
11 traffic investigation of the public roads in the zone.

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

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

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

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

1 (6) The designation, establishment, investigation, or dissolution
2 of a crash prevention zone under this section, or any data, reports,
3 maps, county staff comments, public comments, engineering studies,
4 prior testimony, or other materials prepared or used in connection
5 with the creation or management of a crash prevention zone, is not
6 admissible as evidence in any civil action.

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

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

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

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

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