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HOUSE BILL 2647

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Delvin, Morris and Sterk

Read first time 01/16/96. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to hit-and-run accidents; and adding a new section  
2 to chapter 46.16 RCW.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) To renew a vehicle license, an applicant must satisfy all  
7 allegations of a hit-and-run accident for the vehicle incurred while  
8 the vehicle was registered in the applicant's name and forwarded to the  
9 department under subsection (4) of this section. For the purposes of  
10 this section, allegations of a hit-and-run accident include only those  
11 violations for which notice has been received from local agencies by  
12 the department one hundred twenty days or more before the date the  
13 vehicle license expires and that are placed on the records of the  
14 department. Notice of the violation received by the department later  
15 than one hundred twenty days before that date that are not satisfied  
16 must be considered by the department in connection with any  
17 applications for license renewal in any subsequent license year. The  
18 renewal application may be processed by the department or its agents  
19 only if the applicant:

1 (a) Presents a preprinted renewal application showing no allegation  
2 of a hit-and-run accident, or in the absence of such a presentation,  
3 the agent verifies the information that would be contained on the  
4 preprinted renewal application; or

5 (b) If a hit-and-run accident did occur, presents proof of a  
6 resolution of the accident issued by the relevant court or municipality  
7 where the accident occurred.

8 (2) If there is a change in the registered owner of the vehicle,  
9 the department must forward the information regarding the change to the  
10 local charging jurisdiction and release any hold on the renewal of the  
11 vehicle license resulting from an allegation of a hit-and-run accident  
12 that was incurred while the certificate of license registration was in  
13 a previous registered owner's name.

14 (3) The department must send to all registered owners of vehicles  
15 who have been reported to have been involved in a hit-and-run accident,  
16 at the time of renewal, a statement setting out the dates and  
17 jurisdictions in which the accident occurred.

18 (4) Every municipality having jurisdiction over regulating the  
19 operation of motor vehicles on highways may forward to the department  
20 within ten days of failure to respond, failure to pay a penalty,  
21 failure to appear at a hearing to contest an allegation of a hit-and-  
22 run accident or failure to appear at a hearing to explain mitigating  
23 circumstances, an abstract of the citation record in the form  
24 prescribed by rule of the department, showing the finding by the  
25 municipality that a hit-and-run accident has occurred, and indicating  
26 the nature of the defendant's failure to act. The violation may not  
27 have occurred while the vehicle is stolen from the registered owner or  
28 is leased or rented under a bona fide commercial vehicle lease or  
29 rental agreement between a lessor engaged in the business of leasing  
30 vehicles and a lessee who is not the vehicle's registered owner. The  
31 department may enter into agreements of reciprocity with the duly  
32 authorized representatives of the states for reporting to each other  
33 violations of laws governing allegations of hit-and-run accidents.

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