

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2821

As Reported By House Committee On:
Transportation Policy & Budget

Title: An act relating to driver training schools.

Brief Description: Authorizing branch classrooms for driver training schools.

Sponsors: Representatives Radcliff, Cooke, Van Luven and Robertson.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation Policy & Budget: 1/27/98, 2/4/98 [DPS].

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION POLICY & BUDGET

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 27 members: Representatives K. Schmidt, Chairman; Hankins, Vice Chairman; Mielke, Vice Chairman; Mitchell, Vice Chairman; Fisher, Ranking Minority Member; Cooper, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Backlund; Buck; Cairnes; Chandler; Constantine; DeBolt; Gardner; Hatfield; Johnson; McCune; Murray; O'Brien; Ogden; Radcliff; Robertson; Romero; Scott; Skinner; Sterk; Wood and Zellinsky.

Staff: Paul Neal (786-7315).

Background: Current law allows driver training schools to have an established place of business and to have branch offices or classrooms. The law places restrictions on the location of driver training school branch offices or classrooms. RCW 46.82.360 states that a branch office or classroom may not be located in a house trailer, residence, tent, temporary stand, temporary address, bus, telephone answering service if such service is the sole means of contacting the driver training school, a room or rooms in a hotel or rooming house or apartment house, or premises occupied by a single- or multiple-unit dwelling house. The Department of Licensing has interpreted the statute to require that a branch office or classroom be in a regularly occupied location used exclusively for the business of giving driver instruction.

Summary of Substitute Bill: The provision of current law that requires branch classrooms for driver training schools to be within a 35-mile radius of the established place of business is removed.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: The provisions of the original bill authorizing branch classrooms to be in multi-use facilities were removed. The requirement that branch classrooms be within a 35-mile radius of the driver training school's established place of business is removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: By requiring that driver training schools only offer classes in facilities that are used solely by the driver training schools, current law restricts the ability of the schools to offer lower cost classes to the public by utilizing multi-use locations.

Testimony Against: Passage of the bill would be a step backward from the current law, which places restrictions on the location of branch classrooms. The current law was adopted with the help of the driver training schools to ensure safety for students and combat the "fly-by-night" image of the industry.

Testified: Gary Probst, Diamond Driving School (pro); Tamara Smith, independent contractor (pro); Daniel Lilleness, Washington Professional Driver Education Association/Evergreen Driving School (con); Ken Coffin, Defensive Driving School, Inc. (con); and David Sedelmeier, driving school instructor (pro).