

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6666

As of February 2, 1998

Title: An act relating to the duty of a driver in an accident.

Brief Description: Allowing a vehicle in an accident to be moved to safety.

Sponsors: Senators Goings, Haugen, Rasmussen and Patterson.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/3/98.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Jennifer Hanlon (786-7316)

Background: If a driver of a vehicle is involved in an accident, the driver must immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident. The driver must remain at the scene of the accident and provide his name, address, insurance company, and vehicle information to the driver or occupant of any vehicle with which he collided.

Any driver involved in an injury accident, who fails to stop or provide the necessary information is guilty of a class C felony, unless the person was physically incapable of compliance. Any driver involved in a non-injury accident, who fails to stop or provide the necessary information is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Summary of Bill: The driver of a vehicle involved in a non-injury accident must move the vehicle as soon as possible off the freeway main lanes and adjacent areas. The driver must move the vehicle to an exit ramp shoulder, frontage road, or other suitable location. Moving the vehicle does not affect fault for the accident.

An officer or Department of Transportation representative is not liable for any damage to a vehicle resulting from removal of the vehicle from the scene of the accident.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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