

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 2345

C 194 L 02

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Allowing noninjury accidents to clear the roadway.

Sponsors: By Representatives Lovick, Delvin, O'Brien, Morell, Berkey, Casada, Conway and Wood.

House Committee on Transportation
Senate Committee on Transportation

Background:

Persons involved in noninjury accidents are required to stop the vehicles at the scene of the accident and to remain at the scene until all necessary information (name, address, insurance, driver's license) is exchanged. Failing to stop or comply with the information exchange is a gross misdemeanor.

In 2000 the Washington State Patrol partnered with the Department of Transportation and the Traffic Safety Commission to alleviate congestion by moving vehicles involved in noninjury accidents off the road as soon as possible. This program is known informally as the "steer it and clear it plan."

Summary:

The "steer it and clear it plan" is codified.

Drivers involved in noninjury accidents are required to move the vehicles off the roadway or freeway as soon as possible. Drivers are required to remain at a suitable location until necessary information has been exchanged. Law enforcement or a representative of the Department of Transportation may have a vehicle, cargo, or debris removed from the roadway without incurring liability.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 84 14

Senate 43 3

Effective: June 13, 2002