
SENATE BILL 5488

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, Swecker, Jacobsen, Kohl-Welles and Winsley

Read first time 01/27/2003. Referred to Committee on Highways & Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to accident reports; and amending RCW 46.52.030.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.52.030 and 1997 c 248 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) Unless a report is to be made by a law enforcement officer
6 under subsection (3) of this section, the driver of any vehicle
7 involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person
8 or damage to the property of any one person to an apparent extent equal
9 to or greater than the minimum amount established by rule adopted by
10 the chief of the Washington state patrol in accordance with subsection
11 (5) of this section, shall, within four days after such accident, make
12 a written report of such accident to the chief of police of the city or
13 town if such accident occurred within an incorporated city or town or
14 the county sheriff or state patrol if such accident occurred outside
15 incorporated cities and towns. Nothing in this subsection prohibits
16 accident reports from being filed by drivers where damage to property
17 is less than the minimum amount or where a law enforcement officer has
18 submitted a report.

1 (2) The original of the report shall be immediately forwarded by
2 the authority receiving the report to the chief of the Washington state
3 patrol at Olympia, Washington. The Washington state patrol shall give
4 the department of licensing full access to the report.

5 (3) Any law enforcement officer who investigates an accident for
6 which a report is required under subsection (1) of this section shall
7 submit an investigator's report as required by RCW 46.52.070.

8 (4) The chief of the Washington state patrol may require any driver
9 of any vehicle involved in an accident, of which report must be made as
10 provided in this section, to file supplemental reports whenever the
11 original report in the chief's opinion is insufficient, and may
12 likewise require witnesses of any such accident to render reports. For
13 this purpose, the chief of the Washington state patrol shall prepare
14 and, upon request, supply to any police department, coroner, sheriff,
15 and any other suitable agency or individual, sample forms of accident
16 reports required hereunder, which reports shall be upon a form devised
17 by the chief of the Washington state patrol and shall call for
18 sufficiently detailed information to disclose all material facts with
19 reference to the accident to be reported thereon, including the
20 location, the circumstances, the conditions then existing, the persons
21 and vehicles involved, the insurance information required under RCW
22 46.30.030, personal injury or death, if any, the amounts of property
23 damage claimed, the total number of vehicles involved, whether the
24 vehicles were legally parked, legally standing, or moving, and whether
25 such vehicles were occupied at the time of the accident. In the
26 narrative section of the report the reporting officer should indicate
27 whether either driver was using a mobile telephone while operating
28 either vehicle. Every required accident report shall be made on a form
29 prescribed by the chief of the Washington state patrol and each
30 authority charged with the duty of receiving such reports shall provide
31 sufficient report forms in compliance with the form devised. The
32 report forms shall be designated so as to provide that a copy may be
33 retained by the reporting person.

34 (5) The chief of the Washington state patrol shall adopt rules
35 establishing the accident-reporting threshold for property damage
36 accidents. Beginning October 1, 1987, the accident-reporting threshold
37 for property damage accidents shall be five hundred dollars. The
38 accident-reporting threshold for property damage accidents shall be

1 revised when necessary, but not more frequently than every two years.
2 The revisions shall only be for the purpose of recognizing economic
3 changes as reflected by an inflationary index recommended by the office
4 of financial management. The revisions shall be guided by the change
5 in the index for the time period since the last revision.

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