
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1003

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Hinkle, B. Sullivan, Curtis, Campbell, Blake, Dunn and Condotta

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1 AN ACT Relating to the operation of off-road vehicles on roadways;
2 amending RCW 46.09.010, 46.09.120, and 46.37.010; reenacting and
3 amending RCW 46.16.010; adding new sections to chapter 46.09 RCW;
4 creating a new section; providing an effective date; and declaring an
5 emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that off-road
8 recreational vehicles (ORVs) provide opportunities for a wide variety
9 of outdoor recreation activities. The legislature further finds that
10 the limited amount of ORV recreation areas presents a challenge for ORV
11 recreational users, natural resource land managers, and private
12 landowners. The legislature further finds that many nonhighway roads
13 provide opportunities for ORV use and that these opportunities may
14 reduce conflicts between users and facilitate responsible ORV
15 recreation. However, restrictions intended for motor vehicles may
16 prevent ORV use on certain roads, including forest service roads.
17 Therefore, the legislature finds that local, state, and federal
18 jurisdictions should be given the flexibility to allow ORV use on

1 nonhighway roads they own and manage or for which they are authorized
2 to allow public ORV use under an easement granted by the owner.
3 Nothing in this act authorizes trespass on private property.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.09.010 and 1972 ex.s. c 153 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all lands in this
7 state. Nothing in this chapter (~~((43.09—RCW))~~), RCW (~~((67.32.050,~~
8 ~~67.32.080, 67.32.100, 67.32.130 or 67.32.140))~~ 79A.35.040, 79A.35.070,
9 79A.35.090, 79A.35.110, and 79A.35.120 shall be deemed to grant to any
10 person the right or authority to enter upon private property without
11 permission of the property owner.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.09.120 and 2003 c 377 s 1 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) It is a traffic infraction for any person to operate any
15 nonhighway vehicle:

16 (a) In such a manner as to endanger the property of another;

17 (b) On lands not owned by the operator or owner of the nonhighway
18 vehicle without a lighted headlight and taillight between the hours of
19 dusk and dawn, or when otherwise required for the safety of others
20 regardless of ownership;

21 (c) On lands not owned by the operator or owner of the nonhighway
22 vehicle without an adequate braking device or when otherwise required
23 for the safety of others regardless of ownership;

24 (d) Without a spark arrester approved by the department of natural
25 resources;

26 (e) Without an adequate, and operating, muffling device which
27 effectively limits vehicle noise to no more than eighty-six decibels on
28 the "A" scale at fifty feet as measured by the Society of Automotive
29 Engineers (SAE) test procedure J 331a, except that a maximum noise
30 level of one hundred and five decibels on the "A" scale at a distance
31 of twenty inches from the exhaust outlet shall be an acceptable
32 substitute in lieu of the Society of Automotive Engineers test
33 procedure J 331a when measured:

34 (i) At a forty-five degree angle at a distance of twenty inches
35 from the exhaust outlet;

1 (ii) With the vehicle stationary and the engine running at a steady
2 speed equal to one-half of the manufacturer's maximum allowable ("red
3 line") engine speed or where the manufacturer's maximum allowable
4 engine speed is not known the test speed in revolutions per minute
5 calculated as sixty percent of the speed at which maximum horsepower is
6 developed; and

7 (iii) With the microphone placed ten inches from the side of the
8 vehicle, one-half way between the lowest part of the vehicle body and
9 the ground plane, and in the same lateral plane as the rearmost exhaust
10 outlet where the outlet of the exhaust pipe is under the vehicle;

11 (f) On lands not owned by the operator or owner of the nonhighway
12 vehicle upon the shoulder or inside bank or slope of any nonhighway
13 road or highway, or upon the median of any divided highway;

14 (g) On lands not owned by the operator or owner of the nonhighway
15 vehicle in any area or in such a manner so as to unreasonably expose
16 the underlying soil, or to create an erosion condition, or to injure,
17 damage, or destroy trees, growing crops, or other vegetation;

18 (h) On lands not owned by the operator or owner of the nonhighway
19 vehicle or on any nonhighway road or trail, when these are restricted
20 to pedestrian or animal travel; (~~and~~)

21 (i) On any public lands in violation of rules and regulations of
22 the agency administering such lands; and

23 (j) On a private nonhighway road in violation of section 3 of this
24 act.

25 (2) It is a misdemeanor for any person to operate any nonhighway
26 vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a
27 controlled substance.

28 (3)(a) Except for an off-road vehicle equipped with seat belts and
29 roll bars or an enclosed passenger compartment, it is a traffic
30 infraction for any person to operate or ride an off-road vehicle on a
31 nonhighway road without wearing upon his or her head a motorcycle
32 helmet fastened securely while in motion. For purposes of this
33 section, "motorcycle helmet" has the same meaning as provided in RCW
34 46.37.530.

35 (b) Subsection (3)(a) of this section does not apply to an off-road
36 vehicle operator operating on his or her own land.

37 (c) Subsection (3)(a) of this section does not apply to an off-road

1 vehicle operator operating on agricultural lands owned or leased by the
2 off-road vehicle operator or the operator's employer.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.09 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, it is lawful to
6 operate an off-road vehicle upon a nonhighway road and in parking areas
7 serving designated off-road vehicle areas if the state, federal, local,
8 or private authority responsible for the management of the nonhighway
9 road authorizes the use of off-road vehicles.

10 (2) Operations of an off-road vehicle on a nonhighway road under
11 this section is exempt from licensing requirements of RCW 46.16.010 and
12 vehicle lighting and equipment requirements of chapter 46.37 RCW.

13 (3) It is unlawful to operate an off-road vehicle upon a private
14 nonhighway road if the road owner has not authorized the use of off-
15 road vehicles.

16 (4) Nothing in this section authorizes trespass on private
17 property.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 46.09 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) Except as specified in subsection (2) of this section, no
21 person under thirteen years of age may operate an off-road vehicle on
22 or across a highway or nonhighway road in this state.

23 (2) Persons under thirteen years of age may operate an off-road
24 vehicle on a nonhighway road designated for off-road vehicle use under
25 the direct supervision of a person eighteen years of age or older
26 possessing a valid license to operate a motor vehicle under chapter
27 46.20 RCW.

28 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.16.010 and 2003 c 353 s 8 and 2003 c 53 s 238 are
29 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

30 (1) It is unlawful for a person to operate any vehicle over and
31 along a public highway of this state without first having obtained and
32 having in full force and effect a current and proper vehicle license
33 and display vehicle license number plates therefor as by this chapter
34 provided.

1 (2) Failure to make initial registration before operation on the
2 highways of this state is a misdemeanor, and any person convicted
3 thereof must be punished by a fine of no less than three hundred thirty
4 dollars, no part of which may be suspended or deferred.

5 (3) Failure to renew an expired registration before operation on
6 the highways of this state is a traffic infraction.

7 (4) The licensing of a vehicle in another state by a resident of
8 this state, as defined in RCW 46.16.028, evading the payment of any tax
9 or license fee imposed in connection with registration, is a gross
10 misdemeanor punishable as follows:

11 (a) For a first offense, up to one year in the county jail and a
12 fine equal to twice the amount of delinquent taxes and fees, no part of
13 which may be suspended or deferred;

14 (b) For a second or subsequent offense, up to one year in the
15 county jail and a fine equal to four times the amount of delinquent
16 taxes and fees, no part of which may be suspended or deferred;

17 (c) For fines levied under (b) of this subsection, an amount equal
18 to the avoided taxes and fees owed will be deposited in the vehicle
19 licensing fraud account created in the state treasury;

20 (d) The avoided taxes and fees shall be deposited and distributed
21 in the same manner as if the taxes and fees were properly paid in a
22 timely fashion.

23 (5) These provisions shall not apply to the following vehicles:

24 (a) Motorized foot scooters;

25 (b) Electric-assisted bicycles;

26 (c) Off-road vehicles operating on nonhighway roads under section
27 4 of this act;

28 (d) Farm vehicles if operated within a radius of fifteen miles of
29 the farm where principally used or garaged, farm tractors and farm
30 implements including trailers designed as cook or bunk houses used
31 exclusively for animal herding temporarily operating or drawn upon the
32 public highways, and trailers used exclusively to transport farm
33 implements from one farm to another during the daylight hours or at
34 night when such equipment has lights that comply with the law;

35 ~~((d))~~ (e) Spray or fertilizer applicator rigs designed and used
36 exclusively for spraying or fertilization in the conduct of
37 agricultural operations and not primarily for the purpose of
38 transportation, and nurse rigs or equipment auxiliary to the use of and

1 designed or modified for the fueling, repairing, or loading of spray
2 and fertilizer applicator rigs and not used, designed, or modified
3 primarily for the purpose of transportation;

4 ~~((e))~~ (f) Fork lifts operated during daylight hours on public
5 highways adjacent to and within five hundred feet of the warehouses
6 which they serve: PROVIDED FURTHER, That these provisions shall not
7 apply to vehicles used by the state parks and recreation commission
8 exclusively for park maintenance and operations upon public highways
9 within state parks;

10 ~~((f))~~ (g) "Special highway construction equipment" defined as
11 follows: Any vehicle which is designed and used primarily for grading
12 of highways, paving of highways, earth moving, and other construction
13 work on highways and which is not designed or used primarily for the
14 transportation of persons or property on a public highway and which is
15 only incidentally operated or moved over the highway. It includes, but
16 is not limited to, road construction and maintenance machinery so
17 designed and used such as portable air compressors, air drills, asphalt
18 spreaders, bituminous mixers, bucket loaders, track laying tractors,
19 ditchers, leveling graders, finishing machines, motor graders, paving
20 mixers, road rollers, scarifiers, earth moving scrapers and carryalls,
21 lighting plants, welders, pumps, power shovels and draglines, self-
22 propelled and tractor-drawn earth moving equipment and machinery,
23 including dump trucks and tractor-dump trailer combinations which
24 either (i) are in excess of the legal width, or (ii) which, because of
25 their length, height, or unladen weight, may not be moved on a public
26 highway without the permit specified in RCW 46.44.090 and which are not
27 operated laden except within the boundaries of the project limits as
28 defined by the contract, and other similar types of construction
29 equipment, or (iii) which are driven or moved upon a public highway
30 only for the purpose of crossing such highway from one property to
31 another, provided such movement does not exceed five hundred feet and
32 the vehicle is equipped with wheels or pads which will not damage the
33 roadway surface.

34 Exclusions:

35 "Special highway construction equipment" does not include any of
36 the following:

37 Dump trucks originally designed to comply with the legal size and
38 weight provisions of this code notwithstanding any subsequent

1 modification which would require a permit, as specified in RCW
2 46.44.090, to operate such vehicles on a public highway, including
3 trailers, truck-mounted transit mixers, cranes and shovels, or other
4 vehicles designed for the transportation of persons or property to
5 which machinery has been attached.

6 (6) The following vehicles, whether operated solo or in
7 combination, are exempt from license registration and displaying
8 license plates as required by this chapter:

9 (a) A converter gear used to convert a semitrailer into a trailer
10 or a two-axle truck or tractor into a three or more axle truck or
11 tractor or used in any other manner to increase the number of axles of
12 a vehicle. Converter gear includes an auxiliary axle, booster axle,
13 dolly, and jeep axle.

14 (b) A tow dolly that is used for towing a motor vehicle behind
15 another motor vehicle. The front or rear wheels of the towed vehicle
16 are secured to and rest on the tow dolly that is attached to the towing
17 vehicle by a tow bar.

18 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.37.010 and 1997 c 241 s 14 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 (1) It is a traffic infraction for any person to drive or move or
21 for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved on any
22 highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in such unsafe
23 condition as to endanger any person, or which does not contain those
24 parts or is not at all times equipped with such lamps and other
25 equipment in proper condition and adjustment as required in this
26 chapter or in regulations issued by the chief of the Washington state
27 patrol, or which is equipped in any manner in violation of this chapter
28 or the state patrol's regulations, or for any person to do any act
29 forbidden or fail to perform any act required under this chapter or the
30 state patrol's regulations.

31 (2) Nothing contained in this chapter or the state patrol's
32 regulations shall be construed to prohibit the use of additional parts
33 and accessories on any vehicle not inconsistent with the provisions of
34 this chapter or the state patrol's regulations.

35 (3) The provisions of the chapter and the state patrol's
36 regulations with respect to equipment on vehicles shall not apply to

1 implements of husbandry, road machinery, road rollers, or farm tractors
2 except as herein made applicable.

3 (4) No owner or operator of a farm tractor, self-propelled unit of
4 farm equipment, or implement of husbandry shall be guilty of a crime or
5 subject to penalty for violation of RCW 46.37.160 as now or hereafter
6 amended unless such violation occurs on a public highway.

7 (5) It is a traffic infraction for any person to sell or offer for
8 sale vehicle equipment which is required to be approved by the state
9 patrol as prescribed in RCW 46.37.005 unless it has been approved by
10 the state patrol.

11 (6) The provisions of this chapter with respect to equipment
12 required on vehicles shall not apply to motorcycles or motor-driven
13 cycles except as herein made applicable.

14 (7) This chapter does not apply to off-road vehicles used on
15 nonhighway roads.

16 (8) This chapter does not apply to vehicles used by the state parks
17 and recreation commission exclusively for park maintenance and
18 operations upon public highways within state parks.

19 ((+8)) (9) Notices of traffic infraction issued to commercial
20 drivers under the provisions of this chapter with respect to equipment
21 required on commercial motor vehicles shall not be considered for
22 driver improvement purposes under chapter 46.20 RCW.

23 ((+9)) (10) Whenever a traffic infraction is chargeable to the
24 owner or lessee of a vehicle under subsection (1) of this section, the
25 driver shall not be arrested or issued a notice of traffic infraction
26 unless the vehicle is registered in a jurisdiction other than
27 Washington state, or unless the infraction is for an offense that is
28 clearly within the responsibility of the driver.

29 ((+10)) (11) Whenever the owner or lessee is issued a notice of
30 traffic infraction under this section the court may, on the request of
31 the owner or lessee, take appropriate steps to make the driver of the
32 vehicle, or any other person who directs the loading, maintenance, or
33 operation of the vehicle, a codefendant. If the codefendant is held
34 solely responsible and is found to have committed the traffic
35 infraction, the court may dismiss the notice against the owner or
36 lessee.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 July 1, 2005.

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