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**Transportation Committee**

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**HB 1588**

**Brief Description:** Providing mobility education to students in driver training programs.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Upthegrove, Wood, Hudgins, Takko, Moeller and Simpson.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Adds bicycle and pedestrian safety to the list of items that must be part of the driver training curriculum.
- Creates a mobility education pilot program to develop a mobility education curriculum and implement the curriculum in pilot projects at certain sites as part of the driver training program.

**Hearing Date:** 2/6/07

**Staff:** David Munnecke (786-7315).

**Background:**

The Department of Licensing (DOL) is responsible for overseeing the commercial driver training school program. Driver training schools must meet standards set by the DOL, and driver training schools must be annually approved by the DOL.

The driver instructors' advisory committee reviews and updates the curriculum for driver training schools. The advisory committee also updates the instructor certification standards, taking into consideration the standards set by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The DOL is responsible for providing the driver training school curriculum to each applicant for an instructor or driver training school permit. In addition to information on the safe, lawful, and responsible operation of motor vehicles, the curriculum must include information regarding the intermediate driver's license restrictions and sanctions, the effects of alcohol and drug use on motor vehicle operators, and the importance of safely sharing the road with motorcycles.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

If an instructor or school fails to teach the basic minimum curriculum, the DOL may revoke the license of the instructor or school, or both.

**Summary of Bill:**

Adds bicycle safety and pedestrian safety; from the motor vehicle driver's, the pedestrian's, and the bicyclist's perspective; and the utility of bicycles and walking as mobility options to the list of items that must be part of the driver training curriculum.

Creates a mobility education pilot program to develop a mobility education curriculum and implement the curriculum in pilot projects at certain sites as part of the driver training program.

The DOL will contract for the development of a curriculum with both classroom and real world components that covers sharing the road safely and the availability of mass transit, bicycling, and walking as mobility options.

The DOL will consult with its driver instructors' advisory committee; augmented with representatives from the health, transit, environmental, bicycle, and pedestrian communities; regarding the awarding of the contract and the development of the curriculum. The curriculum will be implemented in pilot programs in King and Spokane counties.

The advisory committee will evaluate the program and present recommendations to the transportation committees of the legislature regarding state wide implementation. \$300,000 is provided for the development of the curriculum and the implementation of the pilot projects.

**Appropriation:** The sum of \$300,000 from the multi-modal fund.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 2, 2007.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.