

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SB 5134

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Authorizing police officers to impound vehicles operated by drivers without specially endorsed licenses.

**Sponsors:** Senators Haugen, Swecker, Rasmussen and Delvin; by request of Washington State Patrol, Department of Licensing and Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

**Senate Committee on Transportation**

**House Committee on Transportation**

**Background:** Current law specifies the circumstances under which a police officer may take custody of a motor vehicle and have it impounded. The circumstances under which an officer may have a vehicle impounded include: (1) if the vehicle's driver is arrested for certain offenses or taken into custody; (2) when the officer finds the vehicle unattended upon a highway where the vehicle is an obstruction to traffic or jeopardizes public safety; (3) when the vehicle is stolen; (4) when the vehicle is illegally parked; and (5) upon a determination that a person is operating the vehicle without a valid driver's license; etc.

Special driver's license endorsements are required to lawfully operate certain motor vehicles, including commercial vehicles and motorcycles.

**Summary:** The list of circumstances under which a police officer may take custody of a motor vehicle and have it impounded is expanded. Upon a determination that a person does not possess a special endorsement required for the type of motor vehicle operated, an officer may impound the vehicle.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	32	16
House	66	31

**Effective:** July 22, 2007