

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1966

C 184 L 10
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Adding wheelchair users to the types of individuals for whom drivers must take additional precautions.

Sponsors: Representatives McCoy, Ormsby and Simpson.

House Committee on Transportation
Senate Committee on Transportation

Background:

A driver is required to stop and allow a pedestrian or bicyclist in a crosswalk to cross the roadway when the pedestrian or bicyclist is in or within one lane of the driver's half of the roadway. Regardless of whether a pedestrian is in a crosswalk, all drivers are required to take due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian in the roadway.

The Washington "White Cane Law," among other requirements, creates a higher duty of care for drivers approaching totally blind or partially blind pedestrians using a predominantly white cane, totally blind or partially blind or hearing impaired pedestrians using a guide dog, or persons with physical disabilities using a service animal. Such drivers are required to take all necessary precautions to avoid injury to these individuals. Drivers who fail to take such precautions are specifically stated to be liable in damages for any injury caused to such an individual.

When a totally blind or partially blind pedestrian using a predominantly white cane, a totally blind or partially blind or hearing impaired pedestrian using a guide dog, or a person with physical disabilities using a service animal enters a crosswalk, drivers are also forbidden from entering the crosswalk.

Summary:

Wheelchair users and power wheelchair users are added to totally blind or partially blind pedestrians using a predominantly white cane, totally blind or partially blind or hearing impaired pedestrians using a guide dog, or persons with physical disabilities using a service animal as individuals for whom drivers must take all necessary precautions to avoid injury when approaching such individuals. Drivers who fail to take such precautions are

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specifically stated to be liable in damages for any injury caused to such wheelchair users or power wheelchair users.

Wheelchair users and power wheelchair users are also added to totally blind or partially blind pedestrians using a predominantly white cane, totally blind or partially blind or hearing impaired pedestrians using a guide dog, or persons with physical disabilities using a service animal as persons for whom drivers may not enter a crosswalk while such an individual is in it.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	97	0	
Senate	46	0	(Senate amended)
House	95	0	(House concurred)

Effective: August 1, 2010