

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SSB 6356

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As Amended by House, March 3, 2010

**Title:** An act relating to limiting access to law enforcement and emergency equipment and vehicles.

**Brief Description:** Limiting access to law enforcement and emergency equipment and vehicles.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Kilmer, Swecker, Rockefeller and Kastama).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 1/18/10, 1/27/10 [DPS].

Passed Senate: 2/10/10, 47-0.

Passed House: 3/03/10, 98-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6356 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Marr, Vice Chair; Swecker, Ranking Minority Member; Becker, Berkey, Delvin, Eide, Hatfield, Jacobsen, Kastama, Kauffman, Kilmer, King and Ranker.

**Staff:** Amanda Cecil (786-7429)

**Background:** Public agencies are prohibited from selling or giving emergency vehicle equipment to someone that is not allowed to use that equipment on public streets.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** Prior to selling or giving an emergency vehicle to a non-law enforcement or emergency agency including private ambulance businesses, the public agency must remove the emergency lighting, radios, and any other emergency equipment from the vehicle that was not originally installed by the manufacturer. The equipment may be retained or transferred to another public law enforcement or emergency agency or it must be destroyed. The agency must also remove all decals, state and local designated law enforcement colors, and stripes that were not installed by the manufacturer. The sale or donation to a broker specializing in the resale of emergency vehicles or a charitable organization for use by a public law enforcement or emergency agency is allowed with the emergency equipment intact. If the broker or charitable organization sells or donates the

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emergency vehicle to a person or entity that is not a public law enforcement or emergency agency, or private ambulance business, the broker or charitable organization must remove the equipment and designations.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available on original bill.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill:** PRO: This will help prevent people from being able to impersonate police officers. The ability for people to impersonate law enforcement weakens the public's trust of law enforcement and creates a safety risk to the public.

OTHER: This bill does not affect towing and there are concerns that this would prohibit towers from using their red flashing lights. In some cases the after market equipment added to the vehicle does not mark it as a law enforcement vehicle and could be safely left on the vehicle.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Pat Jones, Retired Kitsap County Sheriff; Scott Hazlegrove, Washington State Auto Dealers Association; Angela Langer, citizen.

OTHER: Stu Halsan, Towing and Recovery Association.

**House Amendment(s):** Clarifies that a spotlight is equipment that identifies the vehicle as an emergency vehicle from the exterior and as such it must be removed prior to disposition of the vehicle.