

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5670

As of March 1, 2011

Title: An act relating to the use of vehicle headlights.

Brief Description: Requiring the use of vehicle headlights when the vehicle's windshield wipers are in use.

Sponsors: Senators Haugen and Shin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/15/11 [DPF].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Katherine Taylor (786-7434)

Background: Generally, current law requires that every vehicle upon a highway within this state at any time from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise and at any other time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1000 feet ahead must display lighted headlights.

Summary of Bill: Generally, at any time when the vehicle's windshield wipers are in use, a vehicle upon a highway within this state must display lighted headlights.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Requiring headlights to be on when windshield wipers are in use would increase safety on the roads and decrease accidents.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Dave Overstreet, AAA Washington; Jason Berry, Washington State Patrol.

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