
HOUSE BILL 1631

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Hayes, Bergquist, Harmsworth, Irwin, Haler, Van Werven, Hargrove, Shea, Rodne, Harris, Orcutt, Goodman, Young, Pike, and Fitzgibbon

Read first time 01/25/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to imposing an additional penalty for distracted
2 driving; adding a new section to chapter 46.61 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and prescribing penalties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that distracted
6 driving is a practice that increases the likelihood of auto
7 accidents, including fatal collisions, and is caused by a variety of
8 activities, including the use of electronic devices, eating and
9 drinking, talking to passengers, grooming, reading, using a
10 navigation system, watching a video, or adjusting an audio device.
11 The legislature further recognizes that distracted driving is one of
12 the top three causes of fatal collisions for young drivers. It is
13 therefore the intent of the legislature to discourage distracted
14 driving by increasing the penalties and fines for traffic infractions
15 when drivers are dangerously distracted and directing the additional
16 revenue from penalties and fines to programs dedicated to reducing
17 distracted driving.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1)(a) Any driver who commits a moving violation, as defined by
2 rule pursuant to RCW 46.20.2891, must be assessed an additional
3 monetary penalty that is equal to one-half of the penalty or fine for
4 that moving violation if the driver was dangerously distracted at the
5 time of the violation.

6 (b) For the purposes of this section, "dangerously distracted"
7 means a person who engages in any activity not related to the actual
8 operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that interferes with the
9 safe operation of such motor vehicle on any highway.

10 (2) The additional monetary penalty imposed under this section
11 must be used only to support programs dedicated to reducing
12 distracted driving and improving driver education on distracted
13 driving.

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