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## Transportation Committee

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### HB 1901

**Brief Description:** Clarifying the exemption from safety belt use for physical or medical reasons.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Lovick, Griffey and Orwall; by request of Washington State Patrol.

<p><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prohibits operators and passengers of a commercial motor vehicle from exercising the current medical exception to the requirement to wear a safety belt.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 2/27/19

**Staff:** Beth Redfield (786-7140).

**Background:**

Generally under current law, every person 16 years of age or older operating or riding in a motor vehicle must wear a properly adjusted and securely fastened safety belt assembly. Violation of this law is a traffic infraction.

Some exceptions apply to the safety belt requirement. One current exception includes if an operator or passenger possesses written verification from a licensed physician that the person is unable to wear a safety belt for physical or medical reasons.

For purposes of the vehicle inspection code, a commercial motor vehicle is defined as a vehicle used on a highway in interstate or intrastate commerce to transport passengers or property, when the vehicle:

- has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating or gross weight or gross combination weight of 10,001 pounds or more;
- is designed or used to transport more than eight passengers, including the driver, for compensation;

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- is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or
- is used in transporting certain hazardous materials.

**Summary of Bill:**

Operators and passengers of a commercial motor vehicle are not eligible for the medical exception to the safety belt requirement.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.