

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2070

As Reported by House Committee On:
Transportation

Title: An act relating to the color of stop lamps on vehicles.

Brief Description: Clarifying the required color of certain lamps on vehicles.

Sponsors: Representatives Lovick, Dent, Griffey, Leavitt and Sells; by request of Washington State Patrol.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 2/28/19 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Aligns the state requirements for the color of rear vehicle signal lights and stop lamps with federal requirements.
- Allows rear vehicle signal devices to display a red or amber light.
- Requires rear vehicle stop lamps to display a red light.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 30 members: Representatives Fey, Chair; Slatter, 2nd Vice Chair; Valdez, 2nd Vice Chair; Wylie, 1st Vice Chair; Barkis, Ranking Minority Member; Walsh, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Young, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Boehnke, Chambers, Chapman, Dent, Doglio, Dufault, Entenman, Eslick, Goehner, Gregerson, Irwin, Kloba, Lovick, McCaslin, Mead, Orcutt, Ortiz-Self, Pellicciotti, Ramos, Riccelli, Shea, Shewmake and Van Werven.

Staff: Beth Redfield (786-7140).

Background:

Current state vehicle lighting laws require lighting devices on the rear of any vehicle to display a red color, with exceptions for stop lamps or other signal devices, which may be red,

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amber, or yellow. Specific requirements allow stop lamps on the rear of a vehicle to display a red or amber light, or any shade of color between red and amber.

Federal motor carrier safety laws allow rear signal devices on commercial motor vehicles to display either a red or amber color and require rear stop lamps to display a red color.

Washington receives over \$6 million annually from the federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to implement motor carrier safety programs.

Summary of Bill:

Rear vehicle signal devices may display a red or amber light and rear vehicle stop lamps must display a red light.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This item came out of a review of federal rules and is a federal compliance issue. The federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has allowed Washington an extension while the state works to come into compliance. If the state remains out of compliance, \$6 million of federal funds that support trucking safety initiatives are at risk.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Lovick, prime sponsor; Monica Alexander, Washington State Patrol; and Jeff Devere, Washington Trucking Associations.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.