

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5127

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Transportation, January 28, 2019
Ways & Means, February 25, 2019

Title: An act relating to increasing the traumatic brain injury fee.

Brief Description: Increasing the traumatic brain injury fee.

Sponsors: Senators McCoy, Billig, Darneille, Hunt, Rolfes and Schoesler.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/23/19, 1/28/19 [DP-WM].
Ways & Means: 2/06/19, 2/25/19 [DPS, w/oRec].

Brief Summary of First Substitute Bill

- Increases the traumatic brain injury fee from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per traffic infraction.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Hobbs, Chair; Saldaña, Vice Chair; King, Ranking Member; Sheldon, Assistant Ranking Member; Cleveland, Das, Fortunato, Nguyen, O'Ban, Padden, Randall, Takko, Wilson, C. and Zeiger.

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5127 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Rolfes, Chair; Frockt, Vice Chair, Operating, Capital Lead; Mullet, Capital Budget Cabinet; Billig, Carlyle, Conway, Darneille, Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, Liias, Palumbo, Pedersen, Rivers, Schoesler, Van De Wege, Wagoner and Warnick.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Signed by Senators Braun, Ranking Member; Brown, Assistant Ranking Member, Operating; Honeyford, Assistant Ranking Member, Capital; Bailey, Becker and Wilson, L..

Staff: Claire Goodwin (786-7736)

Background: Under current law, traffic infractions generally include both a base penalty and additional fees and assessments deposited in various accounts. One such additional fee is a \$2.00 traumatic brain injury (TBI) fee. The TBI fee is deposited in the state TBI account to support various activities and services related to TBI. The Department of Social and Health Services administers the funds, after appropriation by the Legislature. The TBI fee may be reduced or waived by the court.

Summary of Bill (First Substitute): Increases the TBI fee from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per traffic infraction.

The TBI fee may not be reduced or waived.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE (First Substitute): Directs that \$100,000 of the new incremental revenue, as a result of this bill, be used by the University of Washington Medicine Sports Health and Safety Institute and the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center to collect data on sports-related concussions and for a web site to make the data collected publicly available.

Appropriation: \$100,000.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill (Transportation): PRO: Many TBI survivors suffer various problems like anxiety, PTSD, and suicide. A key to helping TBI survivors is to first identify it in survivors. Having more TBI funds available helps with education and awareness, and helps survivors and their caregivers. More TBI funding is needed throughout Washington State. TBI funding helps maintain services for survivors and caregivers. Twenty-two percent of TBI survivors also have epilepsy.

Persons Testifying (Transportation): PRO: Senator John McCoy, Prime Sponsor; Nick Mehrnoosh, Program Specialist, Eastern Washington University; Dennis Flannigan, citizen; Mike Hoover, citizen; Daniella Clark, citizen.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Transportation): No one.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill (Ways & Means): *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: I strongly support this bill. The fee has not been raised in 12 years and does great work. A concussion is a traumatic brain injury and is quite common. There are few services available for those with

injuries. Untreated brain injuries ruin lives everyday. This fee should be attached to all speeding tickets, including tickets from traffic cameras.

Increased funding would increase services available to survivors. The number of people experiencing a traumatic brain injury are growing daily. TBI is a difficult road and more money to help raise awareness would be a huge help. TBI sufferers deserve compassion. Funding will increase awareness for communities as a whole and would be especially helpful for rural counties who are desperate for support.

Persons Testifying (Ways & Means): PRO: Mike Hoover, Brain Trauma Injury Advocate; Daniella Clark, Brain Trauma Injury Advocate; Douglas Goslin, citizen; Mardi Halvorsen, citizen; Serry Bauer, Olympia Traumatic Brain Injury Group; Scott Yoos, Olympia Traumatic Brain Injury Group; Edwina Waehling, citizen; Robert Elliott, citizen.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Ways & Means): No one.