
SENATE BILL 5907

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators J. Wilson, Lovick, Fortunato, Lovelett, Randall, Saldaña, Stanford, and L. Wilson

Read first time 01/19/22. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to roadside safety measures and public awareness
2 of emergency vehicles providing roadside assistance; amending RCW
3 46.61.212; adding new sections to chapter 46.61 RCW; and creating new
4 sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
7 Arthur Anderson and Raymond Mitchell tow operators safety act.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.61.212 and 2019 c 106 s 1 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) An emergency or work zone is defined as the adjacent lanes of
11 the roadway (~~two hundred~~) 200 feet before and after:

12 (a) A stationary authorized emergency vehicle that is making use
13 of audible and/or visual signals meeting the requirements of RCW
14 46.37.190;

15 (b) A tow truck that is making use of visual red lights meeting
16 the requirements of RCW 46.37.196;

17 (c) Other vehicles providing roadside assistance that are making
18 use of warning lights with (~~three hundred sixty~~) 360 degree
19 visibility;

1 (d) A police vehicle properly and lawfully displaying a flashing,
2 blinking, or alternating emergency light or lights; or

3 (e) A stationary or slow moving highway construction vehicle,
4 highway maintenance vehicle, solid waste vehicle, or utility service
5 vehicle making use of flashing lights that meet the requirements of
6 RCW 46.37.300 or warning lights with (~~three hundred sixty~~) 360
7 degree visibility.

8 (2) The driver of any motor vehicle, upon approaching an
9 emergency or work zone, shall:

10 (a) On a highway having four or more lanes, at least two of which
11 are intended for traffic proceeding in the same direction as the
12 approaching vehicle, proceed with caution, reduce the speed of the
13 vehicle, and, if the opportunity exists, with due regard for safety
14 and traffic conditions, yield the right-of-way by making a lane
15 change or moving away from the lane or shoulder occupied by an
16 emergency or work zone vehicle identified in subsection (1) of this
17 section;

18 (b) On a highway having less than four lanes, proceed with
19 caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle, and, if the opportunity
20 exists, with due regard for safety and traffic conditions, and under
21 the rules of this chapter, yield the right-of-way by passing to the
22 left at a safe distance and simultaneously yield the right-of-way to
23 all vehicles traveling in the proper direction upon the highway; or

24 (c) If changing lanes or moving away would be unsafe, proceed
25 with due caution and continue to reduce the speed of the vehicle to
26 at least (~~ten~~) 10 miles per hour below the posted speed limit.

27 (3) A person may not drive a vehicle in an emergency or work zone
28 at a speed greater than the posted speed limit or greater than what
29 is permitted under subsection (2)(c) of this section.

30 (4) A person found to be in violation of this section, or any
31 infraction relating to speed restrictions in an emergency or work
32 zone, must be assessed a monetary penalty equal to twice the penalty
33 assessed under RCW 46.63.110. This penalty may not be waived,
34 reduced, or suspended.

35 (5) A person who drives a vehicle in an emergency or work zone in
36 such a manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any emergency
37 or work zone worker or property is guilty of reckless endangerment of
38 emergency or work zone workers. A violation of this subsection is a
39 gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

1 (6) The department shall suspend for ((~~sixty~~)) 60 days the
2 driver's license, permit to drive, or nonresident driving privilege
3 of a person convicted of reckless endangerment of emergency or work
4 zone workers.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The department shall develop an appropriate training module
8 relating to the requirements of RCW 46.61.212, for inclusion in all
9 new driver training curriculums, and require affirmative
10 acknowledgment of having read and understood the contents and
11 requirements of RCW 46.61.212 at the time of renewal of a Washington
12 state driver's license or commercial driver's license by all
13 applicants in the state. Failure to acknowledge reading and
14 understanding the contents and requirements of RCW 46.61.212
15 prohibits the licensing of the applicant.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 The department shall substantially increase the use of roadway
19 signage and electronic display sign boards along roadways in the
20 state to reflect the requirements and criminal penalties associated
21 with a violation of RCW 46.61.212.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department of licensing and the
23 Washington traffic safety commission, working independently or in
24 collaboration or both, shall develop a statewide public awareness
25 campaign to inform and educate Washington citizens about the slow
26 down and move over law, RCW 46.61.212. The educational campaign must
27 include the use of public service announcements and written and
28 digital informative and educational materials distributed by all
29 reasonable means possible. The department of licensing and the
30 Washington traffic safety commission, working independently or in
31 collaboration or both, shall develop the public awareness campaign
32 using all of its or their available resources, as well as federal and
33 other grant funds that may, from time to time, become available.

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