

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6288

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As of January 29, 2024

**Title:** An act relating to requiring headlight use on motor vehicles at all times.

**Brief Description:** Requiring headlight use on motor vehicles at all times.

**Sponsors:** Senators Lovick, Hunt, Nobles and Wilson, J..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 2/01/24.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires every motor vehicle on a highway to display lighted headlights at all times.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Staff:** Brandon Popovac (786-7465)

**Background:** Any vehicle on a highway within the state must display headlights, other lights, and illuminating devices as required for different classes of vehicles one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, and when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles are not discernable at a distance of 1000 feet ahead.

Based on the recommendation of its public works department or designee, any county or city may petition the Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to create a 24-hour headlight policy on state highways in its respective jurisdiction. WSDOT must develop criteria for approval or disapproval, such as traffic volume, accident statistics, and costs of signs. A jurisdiction requesting such a policy must periodically report to WSDOT regarding its educational efforts. WSDOT must place and maintain appropriate signs along the designated highway, while participating jurisdictions must share in the cost of signage as

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determined by WSDOT. A jurisdiction may petition WSDOT to remove such a policy.

**Summary of Bill:** Every motor vehicle on a highway within the state must display lighted headlights as required at all times.

A local government's ability to petition WSDOT to adopt a 24-hour headlight policy on state highways within their respective jurisdiction is removed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

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