

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1971

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**As Reported By House Committee On:**  
Transportation

**Title:** An act relating to traffic safety.

**Brief Description:** Enhancing traffic safety.

**Sponsors:** Representatives D. Sommers, Wood, Benson, Schindler and Gombosky.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Transportation: 2/23/99, 3/2/99 [DPS].

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- If an individual is responsible for an accident resulting in a fatality, a law enforcement officer must report the individual to the Department of Licensing.
- The Traffic Safety Commission must make recommendations and periodically report to the Legislature regarding the bicycle/pedestrian education program.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 26 members: Representatives Fisher, Democratic Co-Chair; K. Schmidt, Republican Co-Chair; Cooper, Democratic 1st Vice Chair; Edwards, Democratic 2nd Vice Chair; Ericksen, Republican Vice Chair; Hankins, Republican Vice Chair; Buck; G. Chandler; DeBolt; Haigh; Hatfield; Hurst; Lovick; McDonald; Mielke; Mitchell; Morris; Murray; Ogden; Pflug; Radcliff; Romero; Schindler; Scott; Skinner and Wood.

**Staff:** Jennifer Hanlon Ziegler (786-7316).

**Background:**

In 1998 the Legislature passed the Cooper Jones Act regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety. The legislation required the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to form a bicycle and pedestrian safety education committee.

The legislation also required a law enforcement officer to report a driver to the Department of Licensing for a new driver's license test if there was a collision resulting in a fatality or serious injury, the driver was responsible for the collision, and the officer determined the driver was not competent to operate a motor vehicle.

The Department of Licensing must retest a driver reported for a fatality accident and may retest a driver reported for a serious injury accident.

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**Summary of Substitute Bill:**

An officer must report a driver to the Department of Licensing if there was a crash resulting in a fatality and the driver was responsible for the crash.

A law enforcement officer must report a driver to the Department of Licensing if there was an accident resulting in a serious injury, the driver was responsible for the accident, and the officer determined the driver was not competent to operate a motor vehicle.

The Washington Traffic Safety Commission must make periodic reports to the Legislature regarding the progress of the bicycle and pedestrian education program.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The Washington Traffic Safety Commission must make recommendations to the Legislature. Technical changes are made.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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

**Testimony For:** (Original bill) This legislation fulfills the intent of the original Cooper Jones Act of 1988.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Michael Temple, Bicycle Alliance of Washington.