
Transportation Committee

HB 2345

Brief Description: Allowing noninjury accidents to clear the roadway.

Sponsors: Representatives Lovick, Delvin, O'Brien, Morell, Berkey, Casada, Conway and Wood.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Drivers involved in noninjury accidents are required to move the vehicle as soon as possible off the roadway or freeway.

Hearing Date: 1/31/02

Staff: Penny Nerup (786-7335).

Background:

Under current law persons involved in noninjury accidents are required to stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident and to remain at the scene until all necessary information (name, address, insurance, driver's license) is exchanged. Failing to stop or comply with the information exchange is a gross misdemeanor.

In 2000 the Washington State Patrol partnered with the Department of Transportation and the Traffic Safety Commission to alleviate congestion by moving vehicles involved in noninjury accidents off the road as soon as possible. This program is known informally as the "steer it and clear it plan."

Summary of Bill:

The "steer it and clear it plan" is codified.

Drivers involved in noninjury accidents are required to move the vehicle off the roadway or freeway as soon as possible. Drivers are required to remain at a suitable location until necessary information has been exchanged. Law enforcement or a representative of the Department of Transportation may have a vehicle, cargo or debris removed from the roadway without incurring liability.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 23, 2002.

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