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SENATE BILL 5341

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1995 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl, Roach, Prentice, Fairley, Johnson, Bauer and Schow

Read first time 01/19/95. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1            AN ACT Relating to reporting of crimes involving the taking or  
2 theft of a motor vehicle; and adding a new section to chapter 9A.56  
3 RCW.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9A.56 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7            (1) The legislature finds that law enforcement officers, when  
8 receiving a report about a crime that may be chargeable under this  
9 chapter involving the taking or theft of a motor vehicle, are not  
10 always given sufficient information concerning the circumstances of the  
11 crime and possible suspects to determine whether a vehicular pursuit  
12 should be initiated or continued. Taking a motor vehicle without  
13 permission often involves a family member of the owner, and in such  
14 cases a vehicular pursuit endangering life and property is often not  
15 warranted.

16            (2) By December 31, 1995, every state, county, and municipal law  
17 enforcement agency shall adopt and implement a written policy on the  
18 designation and reporting of crimes that may be chargeable under this  
19 chapter involving the taking or theft of a motor vehicle, to enable law

1 enforcement officers to make more informed decisions concerning whether  
2 to initiate or continue vehicular pursuits.

3       The policy shall require that, when providing information about a  
4 possible crime under this chapter to its officers or to another law  
5 enforcement agency, the law enforcement agency provide the most current  
6 available information concerning the circumstances of the crime and  
7 possible suspects, whenever possible. The policy shall apply to any  
8 dissemination of such information including radio or other  
9 communication with law enforcement officers on patrol and communication  
10 with other law enforcement agencies through computer systems or  
11 networks, or otherwise.

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