

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## EHB 1615

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**As Passed House:**  
February 12, 2004

**Title:** An act relating to vehicle sound system equipment.

**Brief Description:** Requiring vehicle sound system components to be securely attached.

**Sponsors:** By Representatives Dunshee, Pearson, Lovick, Kristiansen, Berkey, Sullivan and Wood.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Transportation: 2/28/03 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 3/12/03, 73-23.

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/12/04, 71-22.

**Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill**

- Requires vehicle sound system components, such as stereo speakers, to be securely fastened to the vehicle.
- Failure to do so is a traffic infraction.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 22 members: Representatives Murray, Chair; Rockefeller, Vice Chair; Simpson, Vice Chair; Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Jarrett, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Armstrong, Clibborn, Cooper, Dickerson, Flannigan, Hankins, Hatfield, Hudgins, Kristiansen, Lovick, Morris, Nixon, Romero, Shabro, Sullivan, Wallace and Wood.

**Staff:** Jeff Doyle (786-7322).

**Background:**

It is increasingly popular for motor vehicle owners to wire or install stereo speakers in the back seat of a car or in the bed of a passenger truck. Certain stereo speakers are manufactured only for residential use, rather than automotive use. These ill-adapted speakers pose a safety

risk when installed in a motor vehicle, as they can become dangerous projectiles in the event of a collision.

There are no state laws specifically prohibiting or restricting the placement of sound system components (such as stereo speakers) on or within a vehicle, nor are there specific rules or regulations in the Washington Administrative Code that prohibit or restrict the placement of such equipment.

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**Summary of Engrossed Bill:**

All vehicle sound system components must be securely attached to the vehicle so that they cannot become dislodged or loose during operation of the vehicle. Failure to do so is a traffic infraction.

Law enforcement officers may only issue tickets for this infraction as a secondary violation.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not Requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** If enacted, this law could help save lives.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Representative Dunshee, prime sponsor; Ron Amisson; Carol Amisson; Missy Waldron; Nathan Rengen; Michelle Voge; and Patricia Dalby.