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**Transportation Committee**

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**HB 2465**

**Brief Description:** Modifying vehicle equipment standards related to original equipment installed.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Lovick, Kessler, P. Sullivan, Haler and O'Brien; by request of Washington State Patrol.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Updates state law for consistency with federal regulation, which requires vehicles manufactured after a certain date to have three working stop lamps (brake lights).

**Hearing Date:** 1/16/06

**Staff:** Teresa Berntsen (786-7301).

**Background:**

Current law requires vehicles to have two or more stop lamps (brake lights). Federal law requires a third rear, high-centered brake light for passenger cars manufactured after September 1, 1985, and for trucks, vans, and sports utility vehicles manufactured after September 1, 1993.

In a 2005 court case, a judge found that a Washington State Patrol officer did not have probable cause to stop a driver because one of the vehicle's three brake lights was not working.

**Summary of Bill:**

Requires all passenger cars manufactured after September 1, 1985, and all passenger trucks, vans, and sports utility vehicles manufactured after September 1, 1993, to have a third stop lamp (brake light). The brake light must be a rear, center high-mounted light that meets certain visibility requirements, consistent with federal regulation.

Clarifies that all required lights and equipment on a vehicle must be in proper working condition. Makes technical changes for clarity.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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