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HOUSE BILL 1719

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representative McMorris

Read first time 02/05/97. Referred to Committee on Transportation Policy & Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to motor vehicle accident property damage reporting  
2 threshold amounts; amending RCW 46.29.060 and 46.52.030; providing an  
3 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.29.060 and 1987 c 463 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The provisions of this chapter, requiring deposit of security and  
8 suspensions for failure to deposit security, subject to certain  
9 exemptions, shall apply to the driver and owner of any vehicle of a  
10 type subject to registration under the motor vehicle laws of this state  
11 which is in any manner involved in an accident within this state, which  
12 accident has resulted in bodily injury or death of any person or damage  
13 to the property of any one person to an apparent extent equal to or  
14 greater than the minimum amount established by rule adopted by the  
15 director. The director shall adopt rules establishing the property  
16 damage threshold at which the provisions of this chapter apply with  
17 respect to the deposit of security and suspensions for failure to  
18 deposit security. Beginning (~~October 1, 1987~~) July 1, 1997, the  
19 property damage threshold shall be five hundred dollars. The

1 thresholds shall be revised when necessary, but not more frequently  
2 than every two years. The revisions shall only be for the purpose of  
3 recognizing economic changes as reflected by an inflationary index  
4 recommended by the office of financial management. The revisions shall  
5 be guided by the change in the index for the time period since the last  
6 revision and by the threshold established by the chief of the  
7 Washington state patrol for the filing of accident reports as provided  
8 in RCW 46.52.030.

9       **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.52.030 and 1996 c 183 s 1 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11       (1) The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in  
12 injury to or death of any person or damage to the property of any one  
13 person to an apparent extent equal to or greater than the minimum  
14 amount established by rule adopted by the chief of the Washington state  
15 patrol in accordance with subsection (5) of this section, shall, within  
16 twenty-four hours after such accident, make a written report of such  
17 accident to the chief of police of the city or town if such accident  
18 occurred within an incorporated city or town or the county sheriff or  
19 state patrol if such accident occurred outside incorporated cities and  
20 towns. Nothing in this subsection prohibits accident reports from  
21 being filed by drivers where damage to property is less than the  
22 minimum amount.

23       (2) The original of the report shall be immediately forwarded by  
24 the authority receiving the report to the chief of the Washington state  
25 patrol at Olympia, Washington. The Washington state patrol shall give  
26 the department of licensing full access to the report.

27       (3) Any law enforcement officer who investigates an accident for  
28 which a driver's report is required under subsection (1) of this  
29 section shall submit an investigator's report as required by RCW  
30 46.52.070.

31       (4) The chief of the Washington state patrol may require any driver  
32 of any vehicle involved in an accident, of which report must be made as  
33 provided in this section, to file supplemental reports whenever the  
34 original report in his opinion is insufficient, and may likewise  
35 require witnesses of any such accident to render reports. For this  
36 purpose, the chief of the Washington state patrol shall prepare and,  
37 upon request, supply to any police department, coroner, sheriff, and  
38 any other suitable agency or individual, sample forms of accident

1 reports required hereunder, which reports shall be upon a form devised  
2 by the chief of the Washington state patrol and shall call for  
3 sufficiently detailed information to disclose all material facts with  
4 reference to the accident to be reported thereon, including the  
5 location, the cause, the conditions then existing, the persons and  
6 vehicles involved, the insurance information required under RCW  
7 46.30.030, personal injury or death, if any, the amounts of property  
8 damage claimed, the total number of vehicles involved, whether the  
9 vehicles were legally parked, legally standing, or moving, and whether  
10 such vehicles were occupied at the time of the accident. Every  
11 required accident report shall be made on a form prescribed by the  
12 chief of the Washington state patrol and each authority charged with  
13 the duty of receiving such reports shall provide sufficient report  
14 forms in compliance with the form devised. The report forms shall be  
15 designated so as to provide that a copy may be retained by the  
16 reporting person.

17 (5) The chief of the Washington state patrol shall adopt rules  
18 establishing the accident-reporting threshold for property damage  
19 accidents. Beginning (~~October 1, 1987~~) July 1, 1997, the accident-  
20 reporting threshold for property damage accidents shall be (~~five~~  
21 ~~hundred~~) one thousand dollars. The accident-reporting threshold for  
22 property damage accidents shall be revised when necessary, but not more  
23 frequently than every two years. The revisions shall only be for the  
24 purpose of recognizing economic changes as reflected by an inflationary  
25 index recommended by the office of financial management. The revisions  
26 shall be guided by the change in the index for the time period since  
27 the last revision.

28 The monetary threshold in this section applies only to the accident  
29 reporting requirement without effect on the deposit of security and  
30 suspension for failure to deposit security outlined in RCW 46.29.060.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
32 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
33 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
34 July 1, 1997.

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