

Weekly Legislative Update: **Transportation**

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Action Needed This Week

These safety-related bills will be heard in the House Transportation Committee on Monday, February 6, at 4:00 pm. **Sign in PRO as indicated before 3:00 pm on Monday.**

[HB 1485](#) Concerning roadside safety measures, sets forth requirements for safety measures by tow trucks at accidents on highways. **Sign in PRO [here](#).**

[HB 1540](#) Requiring driver training curriculum to include instruction on sharing the road with large vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles and buses. Sign in PRO [here](#).

This bill will have a public hearing in the House Transportation Committee on Thursday February 9 at 4:00 pm.

[HB 1674](#), Improving protections for pedestrians and other vulnerable roadway users from dangers posed by certain pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles. This bill provides regulations for educating purchasers of certain trucks and SUVs about the dangers they may create if not properly operated. **Sign in PRO [here](#) before 3:00 pm on Thursday.**

Bills We're Watching

[SB 5594](#) Concerning the operation of fully autonomous vehicles. This bill would allow operation of fully autonomous vehicles in Washington under prescribed conditions. It will have a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, February 7 at 4:00 pm.

Bill Updates

These bills have progressed to the **Senate Rules Committee** and are listed as second reading. They could go to the floor for action any day.

[SB 5023](#) Concerning roadside safety measures. This bill sets forth requirements for safety measures by tow trucks at accidents on highways.

SB 5272 Relating to speed safety camera systems on state highways. This bill authorizes the use of speed safety camera systems in state highway work zones until June 30, 2030. (Substitute)

SB 5317 Concerning the removal of vehicles by a regional transit authority when obstructing the operation of high-capacity transportation vehicles or jeopardizing public safety. This bill authorizes an immediate tow of any vehicles that would obstruct high capacity vehicles. (Substitute bill)

These bills are pending additional action.

HB 1414 Concerning the removal of vehicles by a regional transit authority when obstructing the operation of high-capacity transportation vehicles or jeopardizing public safety. This bill would allow immediate towing of obstacles to high capacity transportation vehicles. There was a public hearing on this bill on Monday, January 30, in the House Transportation Committee; and action was taken in the executive session on February 2, but the outcome of the executive session has not been posted as of this writing.

HB 1582 Prohibiting drivers from making a right turn within proximity of certain facilities. This bill would remove the “free” right turn on a red light within 1000 feet of facilities such as schools, parks, hospitals and more. This bill had a public hearing on February 2 in the House Transportation Committee and has been scheduled for executive session on Monday, February 6.

HB 1513 Traffic safety. This bill prevents law enforcement officers from pulling people over for violations that don’t impact safety, limits searches following traffic stops, and provides funding to help people fix violations. It also had a public hearing on January 30 in the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee, with executive session scheduled for February 9.

These bills had public hearings in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 31 and none have been scheduled for executive session.

SB 5504 Addressing open motor vehicle safety recalls. This bill would establish a system using the vehicle inspection program of assuring that people are notified of and held accountable for responding to vehicle safety recalls.

SB 5560 Improving older driver safety. This bill would require the Department of Transportation to develop a plan with implementation strategies for improving safety involving drivers over age 70 by January 2024.

SB 5430 Providing support for low-income novice drivers to receive driver training. This bill would provide vouchers for low-income youth to receive driver safety training.

SB 5583 Improving young driver safety. This bill would require driver training for individuals between 18 and 25 to get a driver's license.

SB 5449 Concerning the requirements for school buses used for purposes other than the transportation of students. This bill would require that when a school bus is sold and used for other purposes, it must be converted by repainting, removal of lights and stop sign, etc., so that it is no longer identifiable as a school vehicle.

SB 5514 Prohibiting drivers from making a right turn within proximity of certain facilities. This bill would remove the "free" right turn on a red light within 1000 feet of facilities such as schools, parks, hospitals and more.

Among the public hearings were held on the following bills in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 23 and 24, executive sessions have still not been scheduled.

SB 5195 Addressing fuel price transparency. This bill would require rounding the price of gas up to the nearest penny.

SB 5314 Relating to electric-assisted bicycle use on certain trails and roads. This bill requires state agencies with jurisdiction over a nonmotorized natural surface trail or road closed to motorized vehicles that is open to bicycle use to allow all classes of electric-assisted bicycles to use such trail or road, creates a one-year pass for bicycles and establishes a fund for maintenance of signage and education about electric-assisted bicycles.

SB 5471 Relating to the use of electric-assisted bicycles on certain trails and roads by persons with disabilities. Requires DNR and Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to allow persons with a current parking placard for persons with disabilities to use class 1 and class 2 e-bikes on all nonmotorized natural surface trails and closed roads on which bicycles are allowed.

Other:

HB 1040 Establishing an aviation and aerospace advisory committee, which would require the state aviation and aerospace advisory committee to make recommendations to both Commerce and Transportation on matters including emerging technologies, new federal regulations, funding priorities, policy considerations, methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and workforce development opportunities. It would also mandate representation on the committee from legislators, aviation and aerospace companies and associations, county commissioners, airport officials, and certain state agencies and statewide organizations. After its public hearing on January 11, this bill has not been moved to executive session.

Any other bills listed in the Bill Descriptions are either pending executive sessions or have not yet been scheduled for public hearing.

Resource Materials

- Wonder why the change in jaywalking laws? See this [op-ed](#).
- ACLU discussion of traffic safety needs and HB 1513 [here](#)
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) article about traffic safety [here](#)
- WSDOT Secretary Roger Millar presentation to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), January 2023, re the future of transportation; video [here](#)
- Grants to local jurisdictions for Vision Zero, safe streets program, [here](#)
- Local Vision Zero forum - February 24, 2023 (noon – 1 p.m.) – When a Sidewalk Isn't Enough: Vision Zero in Tacoma & Pierce County: Register [Here](#)

How You Can Be Involved

- Respond to Action Alerts in the legislative newsletter. These will primarily appear in the section of the newsletter related to transportation.
- Contact Cynthia Stewart, cstewart@lwwa.org, to receive additional information.