



# TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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# NOVICE DRIVER EDUCATION (SB 5430)

- SB 5430 would create a scholarship fund for low-income novice drivers to be administered by the Department of Licensing, subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose
- Only 45% of WA licensed drivers ages 16-25 had completed a driver education course during 2016-2020, according to DOL
- Drivers 18-25 who had not completed driver education had 70% higher involvement in injury/fatal crashes during 2016-2020

# DRIVER RE-EXAMINATION (HB 1319/SB 5216)

- Updates the language in the Cooper Jones statute requiring law enforcement to report a driver suspected of causing serious bodily injury to another person to the Department of Licensing for re-examination of the driver's fitness
- Changes language to “substantially bodily harm” to be consistent with the vehicular assault statute, RCW 9A.04110(4)(b)

# IMPAIRMENT/DUI BILLS

## SB 5002

- Changes *per se* BAC limit for DUI
- Reduced from 0.08 to 0.05 percent
- Adjusts range for testing to be consistent with 0.05
- Modifies probation conditions to 0.05 limit

## SB 5032

- Changes timeframe for felony treatment of 4<sup>th</sup> DUI
- Extends look-back from 10 to 15 years
- Establishes drug offender sentencing alternative for felony DUI

## HB 1104

- Changes deferred prosecution options for misdemeanor DUI
- Currently one DP in a lifetime
- Would allow deferred prosecution on second offense if DP granted on first offense.

# SB 5002: 0.05 BAC LIMIT

- Over 100 countries and the state of Utah have a per se BAC limit of 0.05 percent
- Utah saw significant decreases in fatal crashes (-19.8 percent), serious injury crashes (-10.8 percent), and all crashes (-9.6 percent) in the 12 months following the implementation of its 0.05 BAC law
- Utah also saw fewer incidences of crashes involving alcohol impairment across a range of BAC levels, from a 14.7 percent reduction of crashes involving drivers with a 0.05 BAC or above, to a 9.1 percent reduction in crashes involving drivers with a 0.15 BAC or higher.

# OTHER IMPACTS OF 0.05 LAW IN UTAH

- 22.1% of drinkers reported changing their behaviors, such as using other transportation options instead of driving after drinking
- No sharp increase in arrests in first year
- Slight increase in arrests at 0.05-0.079 percent BAC
- The law change did not cause loss of revenues to the beverage and hospitality industries or tax revenues, as opponents predicted

([NHTSA study, 2022](#))

# SPEED CAMERAS (SB 5272)

- WSDOT has requested the authority to use automated speed enforcement in highway work zones to encourage drivers to slow to posted work zone speeds and protect construction and maintenance workers
- Revenue above the costs to operate and administer the system would be dedicated to traffic safety education purposes

# MOTORCYCLE LANE SPLITTING (HB 1063)

- Would allow motorcycles to overtake and pass another vehicle in the same lane
- Would allow motorcycle to operate between lanes, travelling no more than 35 mph or no more than 10 mph faster than traffic, whichever is less



# Questions



# Thank You

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