

TRAFFIC SAFETY IN THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mark McKechnie, External Relations Director, WTSC

Washington Traffic Safety Commission meeting

April 2023

LEGISLATIVE OUTCOMES... SO FAR (SESSION ENDS APRIL 23RD)

PASSED: DRIVER RE-EXAMINATION – 'COOPER JONES FIX' (HB 1319/SB 5216)

- Updates the language in the 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)

PASSED: SPEED CAMERAS (SB 5272/HB 1807)

- Authorizes WSDOT to use speed safety cameras in work zones and WSP law enforcement officers to issue a traffic infraction when it is detected through the use of a speed safety camera system (safety camera) in highway work zones through June 30, 2030.
- Requires the Washington State Patrol (WSP), in consultation with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the Department of Licensing, the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC), and civil rights organizations, to adopt rules for the use of safety cameras in highway work zones.
- Mandates that the WSP and the WSDOT, in collaboration with the WTSC, report biennially to the Transportation Committees of the Legislature on the data and efficacy of safety cameras in state highway work zones, with a final report due on July 1, 2029, to include a recommendation on whether to continue safety camera use beyond June 30, 2030.

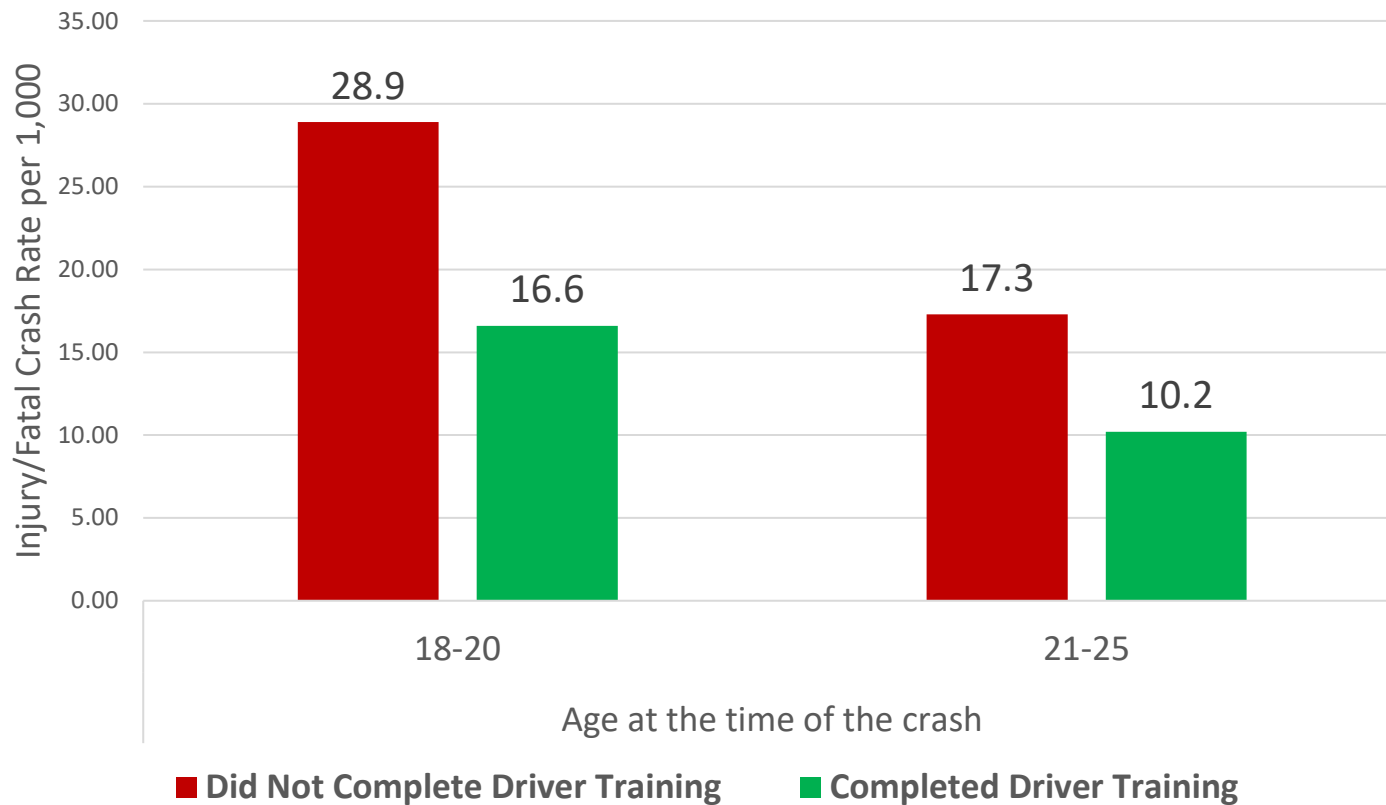
PASSED: NEGLIGENT DRIVING (HB 1112)

- Establishes new gross misdemeanor crime of negligent driving with a vulnerable user victim in the first degree (Negligent driving under RCW 46.04.670 is proximate cause of death).
- Modifies the scope name of the traffic infraction negligent driving in the second degree with a vulnerable user victim.
- Requires the WTSC to implement public education campaign to inform public of the crime of negligent driving with a vulnerable user victim in the first degree.

YOUNG DRIVERS (SB 5583)

Crash involvement rates for 18-25 year olds involved in injury and fatal crashes between 2016 and 2020 in Washington by driver training completion status

Crash rates are young drivers involved in injury and fatal crashes per 1,000 licensed drivers



YOUNG DRIVERS (SB 5583) HOUSE STRIKER VERSION PASSED

- Original bill would have created scholarships and grants for driver education
- Would have added driver education requirements for new drivers 18-24
- House passed amended bill that requires DOL to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for a new driver training education requirement, due to the transportation committees of the legislature by October 1, 2024.
- Plan to address courses that could satisfy the new requirement; assessment of public and private resources needed to support the new requirement; examination of opportunities to address financial need through a voucher or other financial assistance program....

IMPAIRMENT/DUI BILLS: HOW IT STARTED

SB 5002

- Changes *per se* BAC limit for DUI from 0.08 to 0.05 percent
- Requires WTSC to do public education and WSIPP to study impact
- Effective date: 7/1/2024

Rules X File

SB 5032

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

Passed Senate 48-1

HB 1104

- Changes deferred prosecution options for misdemeanor DUI
- Would allow deferred prosecution on second offense if DP granted on first offense.

Passed House 64-31

DUI BILL: HOW IT'S GOING

SHB 1493 passed the Senate, **House refused to concur, Senate prepared new striker, and ...?**

Original bill :

- Added negligent driving and reckless endangerment to definition of a serious traffic offense
- Modified provisions related to ignition interlock licenses, restrictions, and waivers
- Allows court to produce full driver abstracts for treatment agencies

DUI BILL: CONTINUED

Amendments to SHB 1493 added provisions of HB 1104 and SB 5032 (but not 0.05 BAC):

- Changes deferred prosecution provisions to allow DP on 2nd offense when first DP occurs on 1st offense
- Extends felony “lookback” from 10 to 15 years
- Creates DUI Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative for felony DUI

WTSC PENDING BUDGET PROVISOS

- Continue annual Cooper Jones ATSC safety grant project funds
- Continue public education on Move Over, Slow Down
- New: Street lighting active transportation safety study
- New: roadside oral fluid screening pilot to detect DUI
- CJATSC to prioritize fatality reviews involving victims who are tribal members (no additional funding)
- WTSC to review research on alcohol and drug impaired driving; report and make recommendations to legislature by December 15, 2023 (no additional funding)

Questions



Thank You

Contact:

mmckechnie@wtsc.wa.gov

