

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	7 - 0 - 3
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Berger, Boone, Kahl, Schaufler, Beyer
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Edwards D., Gilman, Weidner
Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/15, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Department of Transportation to pay reasonable costs for removal of vehicle, cargo, or debris resulting from a motor vehicle accident that resulted in the death of a person age 18 or younger in cases where there is no insurance available and the family of the deceased would otherwise be responsible for paying for the cost of the cleanup. Specifies that measure does not apply in cases where deceased was engaged in criminal conduct.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Families of accident victims can currently be charged for cost of cleanup after accident
- Process for clearing wreckage following fatal and non-fatal accidents
- Definition of “reasonable costs”
- Timing of determination of responsibility for payment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Changes requirement that Department of Transportation remove or cause to be removed vehicle, cargo and/or debris to requirement that department pay reasonable costs for removal of same. Adds stipulation that department is responsible for paying for removal if there is no insurance available. Specifies that measure does not apply in cases where deceased was engaged in criminal conduct.

BACKGROUND: Following an automobile accident on a state highway, particularly an accident involving a serious injury or fatality, there is often a significant amount of debris that must be removed from the roadway before normal traffic can resume. Removal of the debris from an accident is sometimes performed by a towing company, which may then bill the owner of the vehicle for its removal. House Bill 2553-A stipulates that in cases where an accident claims the life of one or more occupants age 18 or younger, it is the responsibility of the Department of Transportation to pay reasonable costs for cleanup if no insurance is available and surviving family members would otherwise be responsible for payment.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.