

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure (Print B-Eng.)
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger
Nays: -
Exc.: -
Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Department of Transportation to pay reasonable costs for removal of vehicle or debris resulting from a motor vehicle accident that resulted in the death of a person age 18 or younger in cases where insurance is exhausted and the family of the deceased would otherwise be responsible for paying for cleanup. Specifies that measure does not apply in cases where the deceased was engaged in criminal conduct.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Example of double-fatality collision where insurance was exhausted
- Jurisdiction and procedures at collision scene
- Towing company and other bills

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires that the vehicle of the deceased to have been insured under a motor vehicle liability insurance policy.

BACKGROUND: Following automobile collisions on state highways, particularly collisions involving serious injuries or fatalities, 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-B 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 insurance is exhausted and surviving family members would otherwise be responsible for payment.