

Senate Bill 314

Sponsored by Senator PROZANSKI (at the request of Tom Siewell) (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires drivers and occupants to immediately give notice to police officer after vehicle accident under certain circumstances.

Creates offense of driver failure to report accident to police officer. Punishes by maximum \$720 fine.

Creates offense of failure of vehicle occupant to make accident report to police officer. Punishes by maximum \$720 fine.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to accident reports.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 4 of this 2009 Act are added to and made a part of the Oregon**
5 **Vehicle Code.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, any accident occur-**
7 **ing on a highway or upon premises open to the public resulting in injury or death to any**
8 **person is subject to the reporting requirements under the following sections:**

9 (a) **The reporting requirements for drivers under section 3 of this 2009 Act.**

10 (b) **The reporting requirements for occupants of vehicles in accidents under section 4 of**
11 **this 2009 Act.**

12 (2) **Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, an accident occurring on a high-**
13 **way or upon premises open to the public resulting in damage to the property of any person**
14 **in excess of \$1,500 is subject to the following reporting requirements:**

15 (a) **The driver of a vehicle that has more than \$1,500 damage must report the accident**
16 **in the manner specified under section 3 of this 2009 Act.**

17 (b) **If the property damage is to property other than a vehicle involved in the accident,**
18 **each driver involved in the accident must report the accident in the manner specified under**
19 **section 3 of this 2009 Act.**

20 (c) **If a vehicle involved in the accident is damaged to the extent that the vehicle must**
21 **be towed from the scene of the accident, each driver involved in the accident must report**
22 **the accident in the manner specified under section 3 of this 2009 Act.**

23 (3) **The dollar amount specified in subsection (2) of this section may be increased every**
24 **five years by the Department of Transportation based upon any increase in the Portland-**
25 **Salem Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for All Items as prepared by the Bu-**
26 **reau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor or its successor during**
27 **the preceding 12-month period. The amount determined under this subsection shall be**
28 **rounded to the nearest \$100.**

29 (4) **The following are exempt from the reporting requirements of this section:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (a) Operators of snowmobiles, Class I all-terrain vehicles or Class III all-terrain vehicles.

2 (b) A law enforcement official acting in the course of official duty if the accident involved
3 a law enforcement official performing a lawful intervention technique or involved a law
4 enforcement official and a person acting during the commission of a criminal offense. As
5 used in this paragraph:

6 (A) "Law enforcement official" means a person who is responsible for enforcing the
7 criminal laws of this state or a political subdivision of this state and who is employed or
8 volunteers:

9 (i) As a peace officer commissioned by a city, port, school district, mass transit district,
10 county or service district authorized to provide law enforcement services under ORS 451.010;

11 (ii) With the Department of State Police or the Criminal Justice Division of the Depart-
12 ment of Justice; or

13 (iii) As an investigator of a district attorney's office, if the investigator is certified as a
14 peace officer in this state.

15 (B) "Lawful intervention technique" means a method by which one motor vehicle causes,
16 or attempts to cause, another motor vehicle to stop.

17 **SECTION 3.** (1) The driver of a vehicle commits the offense of driver failure to report
18 an accident to a police officer if the driver is driving any vehicle that is involved in an acci-
19 dent required to be reported under section 2 of this 2009 Act and the driver, if physically
20 capable, does not give notice of the accident immediately to a police officer by the quickest
21 means available.

22 (2) The offense described in this section, driver failure to report an accident to a police
23 officer, is a Class A traffic violation.

24 **SECTION 4.** (1) A person commits the offense of failure of a vehicle occupant to make
25 an accident report to a police officer if:

26 (a) The person is an occupant, other than the driver, of a vehicle at a time when the
27 vehicle is involved in an accident required to be reported to a police officer under section 2
28 of this 2009 Act;

29 (b) The driver of the vehicle is physically incapable of giving notice to a police officer
30 required under section 3 of this 2009 Act; and

31 (c) The occupant does not give notice of the accident immediately to a police officer by
32 the quickest means available.

33 (2) The offense described in this section, failure of a vehicle occupant to make an acci-
34 dent report to a police officer, is a Class A traffic violation.

35 **SECTION 5.** Sections 2 to 4 of this 2009 Act apply to motor vehicle accidents that occur
36 on or after the effective date of this 2009 Act.

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