
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 321

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner (1) by July 1, 2013, to develop and implement a strategic highway safety plan to substantially reduce motor vehicle-related fatalities and injuries on the state's highways and (2) by January 9, 2013, to report to the Public Safety and Security Committee on his progress in developing and implementing the plan. In practice, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) currently prepares highway safety plans (see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Existing Highway Safety Plans

Highway Safety Plan. The federal government gives states money for a highway safety program to prevent roadway fatalities and injuries. Annually, the DOT publishes a Highway Safety Plan, which serves as the application for federal funds. The report provides extensive data on highway safety issues and problems and measures designed to address them.

Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The DOT's Highway Safety Office coordinates and implements a Strategic Highway Safety Plan to identify the state's critical safety needs and direct resources to achieve reduction in highway fatalities and injuries. The SHSP is prepared in cooperation and collaboration with the Highway Safety Improvement Program and provides the mechanism for a coordinated effort to address highway safety problems in the state.

Accident Prevention Program

Existing law requires the DESPP commissioner to study highway safety issues and coordinate agencies engaged in eliminating motor vehicle accidents; coordinate, plan, and execute highway safety programs and campaigns; and advise and help the transportation commissioner and other agency heads improve highway safety.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/13/2012)