
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 389

AN ACT CONCERNING TRAFFIC MITIGATION.

SUMMARY

This bill makes several changes in current law related to traffic management by requiring (1) police officer training in traffic incident management, (2) off-road vehicle clearance after an accident, and (3) planning for increased use of drones for accident investigations and transportation facility inspections.

The bill also makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision on accident clearance is effective October 1, 2022.

§ 1 — TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

By January 1, 2023, the bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council, in conjunction with the Department of Transportation (DOT), to develop a traffic incident management (TIM) training curriculum for police officers. The curriculum must (1) align with the Federal Highway Administration's training and (2) provide for a systematic, planned, and coordinated approach to detect, respond, and clear traffic incidents to safely and efficiently restore traffic capacity.

Beginning October 1, 2023, police basic or review training programs must include this TIM curriculum. This requirement applies to training conducted or administered by POST, the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), and municipal police departments. The state police and each municipal department must maintain records indicating when their employed police officers have completed the training.

§ 2 — OFF-ROAD ACCIDENT CLEARANCE

The bill expands to all public roads (versus only limited access

highways under current law) the requirement for drivers who are knowingly involved in an accident that caused only property damage to immediately move or cause the vehicle to be moved from the traveled portion to an untraveled area adjacent to the accident site. However, this requirement only applies if it is possible to do so without risk of further property damage or injury to any person.

§§ 3 & 4 — EXPANDED DRONE USE FOR ACCIDENTS & FACILITY INSPECTIONS

The bill requires the DOT and DESPP commissioners to each develop plans, including recommended funding, to expand the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (i.e., drones) for specified purposes.

Specifically, by October 1, 2022, the DOT commissioner must submit his plan for inspecting existing transportation facilities with drones to the Appropriations and Transportation committees. By this same date, the DESPP commissioner must submit his plan for investigating vehicle accidents and other traffic incidents with drones to the Appropriations, Public Safety and Security, and Transportation committees.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/24/2022)