



AV Testing Location Assessments to Ensure Public Health & Safety

PROPOSAL: Amend RCW 46.30 to require *Testing Location Assessments focused on topics such as demographics, traffic safety, and area characteristics*, be provided to the state prior to permitting pilot testing or operating on Washington streets and roadways.

The AV Health and Equity Committee proposes, consistent with the National Transportation Safety Board and a coalition of 40 national transportation safety and advocacy organizations, an amendment to RCW 46.30 which was passed by the 2019 Legislature. This amendment would establish a public private partnership with AV companies for the purpose of developing Testing Location Assessments as a prerequisite to testing or operations, in addition to proof of adequate insurance prior to being permitted to pilot test or operate on Washington streets and roadways.

Background and References

HB 2676 passed by the State Legislature in 2019 establishes minimum requirements for the testing of autonomous vehicles and adds a new section to chapter 46.30 RCW and new chapter to Title 46 RCW. This bill establishes four (4) basic requirements necessary for a company to begin testing autonomous vehicles on Washington streets and roadways including: (1) Provision of contact information for the company; (2) Identification of the city or county where the testing is occurring; (3) Provision of vehicle ID numbers; (4) Proof of insurance as specified in the law. No other requirements are established even though studies conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board show that lack of safety standards contributed to fatal automated vehicle crashes, and polling shows that Americans overwhelmingly want these safety standards.

References:

Letter to Congress from NTSB and 40 National Transportation Safety and Advocacy Organizations -
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13KWUzJz3xiinIs3U-EggOeWVTNntLP2U/view>

Public Poll from Advocates for Highway Safety -
<https://saferoads.org/2020/02/10/press-release-on-new-opinion-poll-on-autonomous-vehicles-avs/>

National Transportation Safety Board Recommendations -
<https://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/NR20200225.aspx>