

FORMATTING NOTE:

In initiatives, legislative bills and other proposed measures, language that is to be deleted from current statutes is represented by a "strikethrough" character and language that is to be added is underlined. Because these special characters cannot be formatted in all Internet browsers, a different set of symbols is used for presenting these proposals on-line. The symbols are as follows:

- Text that is surrounded by (({- text here -})) is text that will be DELETED FROM the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- Text that is surrounded by {+ text here +} is text that will be ADDED TO the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- {+ NEW SECTION+} (found at the beginning of a section or paragraph) indicates that ALL of the text in that section will become law if the proposed measure is approved.

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INITIATIVE 715

AN ACT Relating to the erection of memorials on public rights-of-way used by licensed motor vehicles in the state of Washington; and adding a new section to chapter 47.32 RCW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 47.32 RCW to read as follows:

(1) A small memorial placed upon the public right-of-way where a tragic motor vehicle accident has taken place helps not only the grieving family and friends, but the memorial also benefits the motoring public as they become cognizant of possible dangerous areas on the public right-of-way.

(2) A citizen of the state of Washington may place a small memorial on a public right-of-way that is not part of the interstate highway system where a death has occurred as a result of a motor vehicle accident.

(3) The memorials may measure no more than two feet in height and two feet in width.

(4) The memorials must be placed a safe distance from the edge of the shoulder of the road so as to not present any hazard or obstruction to the motoring public. Wood or plastic material must be used when sturdier materials would present a safety hazard.

(5) In the event of any concerns pertaining to safety issues, a representative from the Washington state patrol and a representative from the local police department shall resolve those safety issues.

(6) The decedent's family shall determine the length of time a memorial remains at the site of the loss of life. In case of apparent abandonment of the memorial site, the department of transportation, or other entity or person who would have the legal authority to remove the memorial, shall make every effort possible to contact family members who would be affected by the removal. The decedent's family may choose whatever form or fashion the memorial will be within the size limitations stated in subsection (3) of this section and as distinguished from a memorial that the department of transportation or other legal authority deems politically correct.

(7) Existing memorials that exceed the size limitations of subsection (3) of this section are exempt from removal as long as they present no safety hazard to the motoring public.

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