

Levi's Law; HB 2665

HB 2665, known as "Levi's Law," increases the penalties for leaving the scene of an accident when the driver knew or reasonably should have known the accident resulted in injury or death. [Note: The bill was requested for introduction by a representative of Watkins Strategies on behalf of a private citizen, Jill Ward. Ms. Ward provided testimony during the hearings on the bill that her son, Levi Ward, died as the result of a fatal car accident from which the other driver fled without calling emergency services or rendering aid. The bill is named "Levi's Law" in his memory.]

Under continuing law, the offense of leaving the scene of an injury or fatal accident before complying with the statutory requirements is classified as a severity level 5 person felony if the person knew or should have known such injury or fatality occurred due to the accident. The bill increases the penalty to a severity level 4 person felony if one death occurred in the accident and sets a new penalty for accidents resulting in the death of more than one person at a severity level 3 person felony.