

**RCW 60.70.010 Intent—Definitions.** (1) It is the intent of this chapter to limit the circumstances in which nonconsensual common law liens shall be recognized in this state.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter:

(a) "Lien" means an encumbrance on property as security for the payment of a debt;

(b) "Nonconsensual common law lien" is a lien that:

(i) Is not provided for by a specific statute;

(ii) Does not depend upon the consent of the owner of the property affected for its existence; and

(iii) Is not a court-imposed equitable or constructive lien;

(c) "State or local official or employee" means an appointed or elected official or any employee of a state agency, board, commission, department in any branch of state government, or institution of higher education; or of a school district, political subdivision, or unit of local government of this state; and

(d) "Federal official or employee" means an employee of the government and federal agency as defined for purposes of the federal tort claims act, 28 U.S.C. Sec. 2671.

(3) Nothing in this chapter is intended to affect:

(a) Any lien provided for by statute;

(b) Any consensual liens now or hereafter recognized under the common law of this state; or

(c) The ability of courts to impose equitable or constructive liens. [1995 c 19 § 1; 1986 c 181 § 1.]