
HOUSE BILL 3083

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Campbell and Williams

Read first time 01/22/08. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing standards for victim impact panels;
2 amending RCW 46.61.5152; and adding a new section to chapter 10.01 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 10.01 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The purposes and goals of victim impact panels are to:

7 (a) Help offenders understand the impact of their crimes on
8 victims, their families and friends, and the community;

9 (b) Provide victims with a structured, positive outlet to share
10 their personal experiences and to educate offenders, professionals in
11 the justice system, and others about the physical, emotional, and
12 financial consequences of crime; and

13 (c) Build a partnership among victim service providers and justice
14 agencies that can raise the individual and community awareness of the
15 short-term and long-term impacts of crime.

16 (2) To fulfill the goals of victim impact panels and to meet any
17 probationary requirements or other sentencing conditions of a superior,
18 district, or municipal court, each court administration or the
19 equivalent shall develop and maintain a registry of qualified victim

1 impact panels. To be listed among a superior, district, or municipal
2 court's registry, the victim impact panel must meet the following
3 minimum standards:

4 (a)(i) The victim impact panel must be offered by a nonprofit
5 corporation, agency, entity, or other organization within the county
6 that is not associated primarily with providing alcohol, chemical
7 dependency, or domestic violence perpetrators' treatment to offenders;

8 (ii) If no such nonprofit corporation, agency, entity, or other
9 organization is available in the county, the victim impact panel may be
10 offered by a corporation, agency, entity, or other organization
11 associated primarily with alcohol, chemical dependency, or domestic
12 violence perpetrators' treatment provided that any fees or proceeds
13 charged by the corporation, agency, entity, or other organization for
14 the victim impact panel is donated to victims' services programs within
15 that county, less the actual cost of facilitating the victim impact
16 panel;

17 (b) The victim impact panel shall charge all persons required to
18 attend a reasonable fee to attend and participate;

19 (c) The victim impact panel shall have a clearly stated mission or
20 purpose of personalizing the impact and effects of driving under the
21 influence or domestic violence, whichever is applicable, on victims and
22 family members;

23 (d) The victim impact panel shall maintain attendance records for
24 at least five years;

25 (e) The victim impact panel shall have a designated facilitator who
26 is responsible for the enforcement of these minimum standards and who
27 is responsible for maintaining appropriate records and communication
28 with the referring courts and probationary departments regarding
29 attendance or nonattendance;

30 (f) The victim impact panel shall have a "no admittance" policy for
31 anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or whose actions or
32 behavior are otherwise inappropriate. The victim impact panel may
33 institute additional admission requirements; and

34 (g) The victim impact panel shall have policies and procedures to
35 recruit, screen, train, and provide feedback and ongoing support to the
36 panelists. The panel shall take reasonable steps to verify the
37 authenticity of each panelist's story.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.61.5152 and 2006 c 73 s 17 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 In addition to penalties that may be imposed under RCW 46.61.5055,
4 the court may require a person who is convicted of a nonfelony
5 violation of RCW 46.61.502 or 46.61.504 or who enters a deferred
6 prosecution program under RCW 10.05.020 based on a nonfelony violation
7 of RCW 46.61.502 or 46.61.504, to attend an educational program
8 focusing on the emotional, physical, and financial suffering of victims
9 who were injured by persons convicted of driving while under the
10 influence of intoxicants. The educational program must meet the
11 minimum standards established in section 1 of this act.

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