

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5140

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As Passed Senate, January 17, 1996

**Title:** An act relating to drug-free zones in publicly owned or publicly operated civic centers.

**Brief Description:** Authorizing municipalities to declare certain public places drug-free zones.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl, Smith, Winsley, Pelz, Roach, Prentice, Schow, Heavey, McAuliffe, C. Anderson, Fairley, Sheldon, Prince, West, Haugen, Bauer, Oke and Palmer).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Law & Justice: 1/24/95, 2/1/95 [DPS]; 1/9/96 [DP].  
Passed Senate, 3/1/95, 48-0; 1/17/96, 47-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Smith, Chair; Fairley, Vice Chair; Goings, Haugen, Johnson, Long, McCaslin, Quigley, Roach and Schow.

**Staff:** Martin Lovinger (786-7443)

**Background:** Current law declares a number of locations to be drug-free zones. In these zones the penalties for drug-related crimes are doubled. The locations covered by this law are schools, school bus stops, public parks, and public transit vehicles and shelters.

A number of publicly-owned and publicly-operated places are used primarily for recreational, educational or cultural purposes. However, some of these facilities are neither schools nor public parks. As a result, they are not eligible for designation as drug-free zones.

**Summary of Bill:** Publicly-owned and publicly-operated civic centers designated by a local governing authority as drug-free zones are added as a new category to the current list of places where the penalties for drug-related crimes are doubled. Local governing authorities may also designate a 1,000 foot perimeter around such facilities as drug-free zones.

Civic centers are defined for this act as publicly-owned or publicly-operated places and facilities used primarily for recreational, educational or cultural purposes.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Drug crimes contribute to the decay of neighborhoods. The facilities covered by this bill deserve the same protection as public parks. Drug-free zones have been effective in reducing drug dealing near children. The Seattle Center, which would be eligible for drug-free zone status under this bill, attracts 8 million visitors each year, many of them children and teenagers. Large crowds attract drug dealers looking for customers.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Senator Kohl, original prime sponsor; Bruce Rooney, Deputy Director, Seattle Center (pro).