
HOUSE BILL 2937

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Mulliken, Stevens, McMahan, Smith and Thompson

Read first time 01/30/96. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting and promoting the rights and
2 responsibilities of parents; adding a new section to chapter 4.24 RCW;
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature recognizes: (a) The fundamental rights and
8 responsibilities of parents to exercise legitimate care, custody, and
9 control over the upbringing of their children; (b) the traditional role
10 of the family unit as the primary provider, protector, and promoter of
11 the health, safety, and well-being of children and the basic values and
12 character traits essential for attaining individual liberty,
13 fulfillment, and happiness; (c) that upholding the rights and
14 responsibilities of parents is in the best interest of families and
15 children of Washington state; and (d) the duty of government to
16 adequately support the reasonable attempts of parents to train,
17 discipline, and prepare their children to be productive, law-abiding
18 citizens.

1 (2) This section is intended to ensure that: (a) The rights of
2 parents to rightfully manage and direct the affairs of their minor or
3 dependent children are protected; (b) parents meet the responsibilities
4 inherent in bearing and raising young children; (c) government
5 appropriately respects and reinforces these rights and
6 responsibilities; and (d) parents are supported in furthering the
7 important values of (i) honesty, integrity, and trust; (ii) respect for
8 self and others; (iii) responsibility for personal actions and
9 commitments; (iv) self-discipline and moderation; (v) diligence and a
10 positive work ethic; (vi) respect for law and authority; (vii) healthy
11 and constructive behavior; and (viii) family as the basis of society.

12 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a
13 prosecution for abuse, neglect, or other crime as defined by law.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act shall be known and cited as the
15 restoration of parents' rights and responsibilities act of 1996.

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