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**SENATE BILL 5417**

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**State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1995 Regular Session**

**By Senators Fraser, Winsley, Wojahn, Oke and Kohl**

Read first time 01/23/95. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1            AN ACT Relating to abandonment of dependent persons; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 9A.42 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9A.42 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) A person entrusted with the physical care of a dependent person  
7 is guilty of criminal abandonment if he or she knowingly fails to  
8 assist the dependent person by withholding any of the basic necessities  
9 of life.

10           (2) For the purposes of this section:

11           (a) "Dependent person" means a person who, because of physical or  
12 mental disability, or because of extreme advanced age, is dependent  
13 upon another person to provide the basic necessities of life.

14           (b) "Basic necessities of life" means water, food, shelter,  
15 clothing, and health care.

16           (3) Criminal abandonment is a class C felony.

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