
HOUSE BILL 2752

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Dickerson, Orwall, Walsh, Goodman, Kagi, Roberts, Pedersen, Green, Santos, and Nelson

Read first time 01/13/10. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to the safety of runaway youth; amending RCW
2 13.32A.082; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that youth services
5 provide safety to youth on the streets and are a critical pathway to
6 ensuring the youth's return home. Runaway youth are without
7 protection, live under the threat of violence, and fall victim to
8 predators who exploit their vulnerability. The policy of this state is
9 to provide assistance to youth in crisis and to protect and preserve
10 families. In order to effectively serve youth on the streets and
11 promote their safe return home, shelters must have the time to
12 establish and maintain an environment that facilitates open
13 communication and trust.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.32A.082 and 2000 c 123 s 10 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any person
17 who, without legal authorization, provides shelter to a minor and who
18 knows at the time of providing the shelter that the minor is away from

1 the parent's home without the permission of the parent, or other
2 lawfully prescribed residence, shall promptly report the location of
3 the child to the parent, the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction
4 in which the person lives, or the department. (~~The report~~)

5 (b) If a licensed overnight youth shelter, or an organization whose
6 stated mission is to provide services to homeless or runaway youth and
7 their families, provides shelter to a minor and knows at the time of
8 providing the shelter that the minor is away from a lawfully prescribed
9 residence or home without parental permission, it shall contact the
10 parent of the minor within seventy-two hours. The notification should
11 include a description of the minor's physical and emotional condition
12 and the circumstances surrounding the minor's contact with the shelter
13 or organization. If there are compelling reasons not to notify the
14 parent, the shelter or organization shall instead notify the
15 department.

16 (c) Reports required under this section may be made by telephone or
17 any other reasonable means.

18 (2) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions
19 in this subsection apply throughout this section.

20 (a) "Shelter" means the person's home or any structure over which
21 the person has any control.

22 (b) "Promptly report" means to report within eight hours after the
23 person has knowledge that the minor is away from a lawfully prescribed
24 residence or home without parental permission.

25 (c) "Compelling reasons" include, but are not limited to,
26 circumstances that indicate that notifying the parent or legal guardian
27 will subject the child to abuse or neglect as defined in chapter 26.44
28 RCW.

29 (3) When the department receives a report under subsection (1) of
30 this section, it shall make a good faith attempt to notify the parent
31 that a report has been received and offer services designed to resolve
32 the conflict and accomplish a reunification of the family.

33 (4) Nothing in this section prohibits any person from immediately
34 reporting the identity and location of any minor who is away from a
35 lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental permission more
36 promptly than required under this section.

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