
HOUSE BILL 1453

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Griffey, Couture, Caldier, Davis, Nance, Scott, and Simmons

Read first time 01/21/25. Referred to Committee on Consumer Protection & Business.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting consumer access to
2 telecommunications, including emergency services, by increasing
3 penalties for scrap metal businesses who purchase stolen copper from
4 telecommunication cables; amending RCW 19.290.080; and prescribing
5 penalties.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.290.080 and 2024 c 301 s 9 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) Each violation of the requirements of this chapter that are
10 not subject to criminal penalties shall be a civil penalty punishable
11 by a fine of not more than \$1,000.

12 (2) Within two years of a violation of any of the requirements of
13 this chapter that results in a civil penalty under this section, each
14 subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine of not more than
15 \$2,000.

16 (3)(a) A scrap metal business that engages in a pledge for, the
17 purchase of, or the trade of stolen copper that was used in
18 telecommunication cable, the theft of which can result in disruption
19 to emergency telecommunication services, is liable for a civil
20 penalty of:

21 (i) Not more than \$10,000 for a first violation; and

1 (ii) Not more than \$20,000 for a second violation.

2 (b) A third violation of this subsection must result in loss of
3 licensure.

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