
HOUSE BILL 1802

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Graham, Burnett, Marshall, Walsh, Keaton, Griffey, Stuebe, Schmidt, and Eslick

Read first time 02/03/25. Referred to Committee on Community Safety.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting obstructing a law enforcement
2 officer or other first responder; and amending RCW 9A.76.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9A.76.020 and 2001 c 308 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A person is guilty of obstructing a law enforcement officer
7 or other first responder if the person (~~willfully~~):

8 (a) Willfully hinders, delays, or obstructs any law enforcement
9 officer or other first responder in the discharge of his or her
10 official powers or duties; or

11 (b) After receiving a verbal warning not to approach from a
12 person he or she knows or reasonably should know is a law enforcement
13 officer or other first responder, who is engaged in the lawful
14 performance of his or her official powers or duties, knowingly and
15 willfully violates such warning and approaches or remains within 25
16 feet of the law enforcement officer or other first responder with the
17 intent to:

18 (i) Impede or interfere with the law enforcement officer's or
19 other first responder's ability to perform such duty;

20 (ii) Threaten the law enforcement officer or other first
21 responder with physical harm; or

1 (iii) Harass the law enforcement officer or other first
2 responder.

3 (2) For purposes of this section:

4 (a) "First responder" means any firefighter, emergency services
5 dispatcher or recordkeeper, emergency medical personnel as licensed
6 or certified by this state, member or former member of the Washington
7 national guard acting in an emergency response capacity pursuant to
8 chapter 38.52 RCW, coroner or medical examiner, or coroner's or
9 medical examiner's agent or employee.

10 (b) "Law enforcement officer" means any general authority,
11 limited authority, or specially commissioned Washington peace officer
12 or federal peace officer as those terms are defined in RCW 10.93.020,
13 and other public officers who are responsible for enforcement of
14 fire, building, zoning, and life and safety codes.

15 (3) No person who intervenes in the defense of, or comes to the
16 aid of, a law enforcement officer or other first responder who is in
17 imminent danger is guilty of obstructing a law enforcement officer or
18 other first responder.

19 (4) Obstructing a law enforcement officer or other first
20 responder is a gross misdemeanor.

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