

---

HOUSE BILL 2471

---

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Lambert, Veloria, Carrell, Zellinsky, Mulliken and Backlund

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring the safety of young people at  
2 children's camps; adding new sections to chapter 43.121 RCW; creating  
3 a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that young children  
6 are often unaware of certain rights available to them while they are in  
7 the custody and care of persons other than their parents.

8 The legislature further finds that it is in the best interest of  
9 children who are away from their parents for an extended period of time  
10 for them to be reminded of their rights to take certain actions to  
11 contact their parents and protect themselves from potential injury.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14 Children who are under eighteen years of age who are guests at a  
15 public or private camp for children for a period exceeding twenty-four  
16 hours shall be given oral notice of the following information within  
17 twelve hours of their arrival at the camp location:

1 (1) Upon request, the camp facility shall ensure a child camp guest  
2 that he or she will have immediate access to a telephone for the  
3 purposes of contacting his or her parents in the event of an emergency,  
4 or in the event the child feels that his or her safety or well-being is  
5 threatened by another person.

6 (2) Upon request, the camp facility shall assist the child camp  
7 guest in making the telephone call to ensure a contact is made between  
8 the child and his or her parents.

9 (3) Upon request, the camp facility shall ensure that the  
10 conversation between the child camp guest and his or her parents is  
11 private or confidential.

12 (4) The phone call shall be at the expense of the child or the  
13 child's parents.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 The public or private camp for children shall post written notice  
17 of the information required under section 2 of this act in a  
18 conspicuous manner in a location where child camp guests congregate.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 Sections 2 and 3 of this act do not apply to a camp or facility  
22 used for juvenile offenders.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
24 preservation of the public peace, health, morals, or safety, or support  
25 of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
26 effect immediately.

--- END ---