
HOUSE BILL 2120

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea, Taylor, Santos, McCaslin, Ormsby, Young, Stanford, Pollet, Tarleton, and Condotta

Read first time 02/16/17. Referred to Committee on Public Safety.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington state preservation of
2 liberty act condemning the unlawful detention of United States
3 citizens and lawful resident aliens under the national defense
4 authorization act; adding a new section to chapter 42.20 RCW; adding
5 a new section to chapter 38.40 RCW; creating new sections;
6 prescribing penalties; and declaring an emergency.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
9 Washington state preservation of liberty act.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state legislature finds the
11 following:

12 (1) The congress of the United States passed the national defense
13 authorization act, 2011 P.L. 112-81, ("2012 NDAA") for fiscal year
14 2012 on December 15, 2011;

15 (2) The president of the United States of America signed the 2012
16 NDAA into law on December 31, 2011;

17 (3) Section 1022 of the 2012 NDAA requires the armed forces of
18 the United States to detain, pending disposition according to the law
19 of war, any person involved in, or whom provided substantial support

1 to, terrorism or belligerent acts against the United States, and whom
2 is a member of al-Qaeda or an associated force;

3 (4) Section 1022 (4)(b)(1) and (2) of the 2012 NDAA excludes
4 United States citizens, and lawful resident aliens for conduct
5 occurring within the United States, from its mandatory detention
6 provisions but is only applicable to that section of the 2012 NDAA;

7 (5) Section 1022 (4)(b)(1) of the 2012 NDAA specifically provides
8 that, "The requirement to detain a person in military custody under
9 this section does not extend to citizens of the United States";

10 (6) Section 1022 of the 2012 NDAA specifically provides that,
11 "The requirement to detain a person in military custody under this
12 section does not extend to lawful resident aliens of the United
13 States . . .";

14 (7) By contrast, section 1021 of the 2012 NDAA purports to
15 authorize, but does not require, the president of the United States
16 to utilize the armed forces of the United States to detain persons
17 the president suspects were part of, or substantially supported, al-
18 Qaeda, the Taliban, or associated forces and to dispose of such
19 detained persons according to the law of war, which may include, but
20 is not limited to: (a) Indefinite detention without charge or trial
21 until the end of hostilities authorized by the 2001 authorization for
22 use of military force against terrorists, 2001 P.L. 107-40, (b)
23 prosecution through a military commission, or (c) transfer to a
24 foreign country or foreign entity;

25 (8) Additionally, section 1021 of the 2012 NDAA purports to
26 enlarge the scope of those persons the office of the president may
27 indefinitely detain beyond those responsible for the September 11,
28 2001, terrorist attacks, and those who harbored them, as purportedly
29 authorized by the 2001 authorization for use of military force
30 against terrorists, to now include "[a] person who was a part of or
31 substantially supported al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or associated forces
32 that are engaged in hostilities against the United States or its
33 coalition partners, including any person who has committed a
34 belligerent act or has directly supported such hostilities in aid of
35 such enemy forces";

36 (9) However, section 1021, unlike section 1022 of the 2012 NDAA,
37 makes no specific exclusion for United States citizens and lawful
38 resident aliens for conduct occurring within the United States;

39 (10) While section 1021 of the 2012 NDAA seeks to preserve
40 existing law and authorities pertaining to the detention of United

1 States citizens, lawful resident aliens of the United States, and any
2 other person captured in the United States, it does not specify what
3 such existing law or authorities are;

4 (11) President Obama issued a signing statement upon signing the
5 NDAA into law indicating that he "will not authorize the indefinite
6 military detention without trial of American citizens";

7 (12) The clear language of, and omission of an exclusion in,
8 section 1021 of the 2012 NDAA combined with the language of President
9 Obama's signing statement indicates that while the president claims
10 he will not authorize the indefinite military detention without trial
11 of American citizens, he believes that the office of president now
12 possesses the authority to do so;

13 (13) Furthermore, the specific exclusion of application to United
14 States citizens and lawful resident aliens contained in section 1022
15 of the 2012 NDAA, and the absence of such exclusion in section 1021
16 of the NDAA, strongly implies that the provisions of section 1021 are
17 intended to apply to United States citizens and lawful resident
18 aliens, whether or not they are captured in the United States in the
19 context of the following facts:

20 (a) The office of the president of the United States, under both
21 the administrations of George W. Bush and Barack H. Obama, has
22 asserted the 2001 authorization for the use of military force against
23 terrorists allows the office of the president to indefinitely detain
24 without charge United States citizens and lawful resident aliens
25 captured in the United States;

26 (b) The United States supreme court has not decided whether the
27 2001 authorization for the use of military force against terrorists
28 allows the office of the president to indefinitely detain without
29 charge United States citizens and lawful resident aliens captured in
30 the United States;

31 (c) United States Senator, Carl Levin, declared in colloquy on
32 the floor of the United States senate that the original 2012 NDAA
33 provided that section 1021, then section 1031 prior to final
34 drafting, specifically would not apply to United States citizens, but
35 that the office of the president of the United States had requested
36 that such restriction be removed from the 2012 NDAA;

37 (d) During debate within the Senate and before the passage of the
38 2012 NDAA, United States Senator, Mark Udall, introduced an amendment
39 intended to forbid the indefinite detention of United States
40 citizens, which was rejected by a vote of 38-60;

1 (e) United States Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham
2 declared in colloquies on the floor of the United States senate that
3 section 1021 of the 2012 NDAA authorized the indefinite detention of
4 United States citizens captured within the United States by the armed
5 forces of the United States;

6 (f) United States Senator Lindsey Graham further declared in
7 colloquy on the floor of the United States senate that the United
8 States homeland is now part of "the battlefield";

9 (g) Retired four star marine generals Charles C. Krulak and
10 Joseph P. Hoar stated publicly that as a result of the indefinite
11 detention provision of the 2012 NDAA that "due process would be a
12 thing of the past," and "this provision would expand the battlefield
13 to include the United States";

14 (h) Retired four star marine generals Charles C. Krulak and
15 Joseph P. Hoar also stated publicly that the mandate of military
16 custody for most terrorism suspects "would violate not only the
17 spirit of the postreconstruction act limiting the use of the armed
18 forces for domestic law enforcement but also our trust with service
19 members, who enlist believing that they will never be asked to turn
20 their weapons on fellow Americans";

21 (14) Policing the citizenry of the United States of America by
22 the armed forces of the United States, as purportedly authorized by
23 the 2012 NDAA, is contrary to the fundamental principles of our
24 republic, and is generally repugnant to a free society;

25 (15) Section 1021 of the 2012 NDAA as it purports to authorize
26 (a) detainment of United States citizens and legal resident aliens
27 captured within the United States of America without charge, (b)
28 military tribunals for United States citizens and legal resident
29 aliens captured within the United States of America, and (c) the
30 transfer of United States citizens and legal resident aliens captured
31 within the United States of America to foreign jurisdictions, is
32 violative of the following rights enshrined in the Constitution of
33 the United States of America: Article I, section 9, clause 2's right
34 to seek Writ of *Habeas Corpus*; the First Amendment's right to
35 petition the government for a redress of grievances; the Fourth
36 Amendment's right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures;
37 the Fifth Amendment's right to be free from charge for an infamous or
38 capitol crime until presentment or indictment by a grand jury; the
39 Fifth Amendment's right to be free from deprivation of life, liberty,
40 or property, without due process of law; the Sixth Amendment's right

1 in criminal prosecutions to enjoy a speedy trial by an impartial jury
2 in the state and district where the crime shall have been committed;
3 the Sixth Amendment's right to be informed of the nature and cause of
4 the accusation; the Sixth Amendment's right to confront witnesses;
5 the Sixth Amendment's right to counsel; the Eighth Amendment's right
6 to be free from excessive bail and fines, and cruel and unusual
7 punishment; the Fourteenth Amendment's right to be free from
8 deprivation of life, liberty, or property, without due process of
9 law;

10 (16) Section 1021 of the 2012 NDAA as it purports to authorize
11 (a) detainment of United States citizens and legal resident aliens
12 captured within the United States of America without charge or trial,
13 (b) military tribunals for United States citizens and legal resident
14 aliens captured within the United States of America, and (c) the
15 transfer of United States citizens and legal resident aliens captured
16 within the United States of America to foreign jurisdictions, is
17 violative of the following rights enshrined in the Washington state
18 Constitution: Article I, section 1: "...governments...are established
19 to protect and maintain individual rights."; Article I, section 3:
20 "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without
21 due process of law;" Article I, section 7: "No person shall be
22 disturbed in his private affairs, or his home invaded, without
23 authority of law;" Article I, section 10: "Justice in all cases shall
24 be administered openly, and without unnecessary delay;" Article I,
25 section 13: "The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be
26 suspended, unless in case of rebellion or invasion the public safety
27 requires it;" Article I, section 14: "Excessive bail shall not be
28 required, excessive fines imposed, nor cruel punishment inflicted;"
29 Article I, section 18: "The military shall be in strict subordination
30 to the civil power;" Article I, section 21: "The right of trial by
31 jury shall remain inviolate...;" Article I, section 22: "In criminal
32 prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in
33 person, or by counsel, to demand the nature and cause of the
34 accusation against him, to have a copy thereof, to testify in his own
35 behalf, to meet the witnesses against him face to face, to have
36 compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his own
37 behalf, to have a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the
38 county in which the offense is charged to have been committed and the
39 right to appeal in all cases...;" Article I, section 27: "...No
40 person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two

1 witnesses to the same overt act, or confession in open court;"
2 Article I, section 29: "The provisions of this Constitution are
3 mandatory, unless by express words they are declared to be
4 otherwise;" Article I, section 30: "The enumeration in this
5 Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny others
6 retained by the people;" and Article I, section 32: "A frequent
7 recurrence to fundamental principles is essential to the security of
8 individual right and the perpetuity of free government";

9 (17) In December 2012, the congress of the United States passed,
10 and on January 2, 2013, the president of the United States signed,
11 the national defense authorization act for fiscal year 2013 ("2013
12 NDAA"). They failed to include in the 2013 NDAA a specific exclusion
13 from section 1021 of the 2012 NDAA for United States citizens and
14 lawful resident aliens for conduct occurring within the United
15 States; and

16 (18) As required by Article VI of the United States Constitution,
17 the members of the Washington state legislature have taken an oath to
18 uphold both the Constitution of the United States of America and the
19 Constitution of the state of Washington.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The Washington state legislature intends
21 the following:

22 (1) To condemn in no uncertain terms section 1021 of the 2012
23 NDAA as it purports to repeal the spirit of the postreconstruction
24 act and authorize the president of the United States to utilize the
25 armed forces of the United States to police United States citizens
26 and lawful resident aliens within the United States of America,
27 indefinitely detain United States citizens and lawful resident aliens
28 captured within the United States of America without charge until the
29 end of hostilities authorized by the 2001 authorization for use of
30 military force, subject American citizens and lawful resident aliens
31 captured within the United States of America to military tribunals,
32 and transfer American citizens and lawful resident aliens captured
33 within the United States of America to a foreign country or foreign
34 entity.

35 (2) To affirm it is indisputable that the threat of terrorism is
36 real, and that the full force of appropriate, and constitutional, law
37 must be used to defeat this threat. However, winning the war against
38 terror cannot come at the great expense of eviscerating the
39 unalienable rights recognized by and protected in the United States

1 Constitution and the Constitution of the state of Washington. Indeed,
2 undermining those constitutional rights serves only to concede to the
3 terrorists' demands of changing the fabric of what has made the
4 United States of America a republic granting the greatest number of
5 people the greatest amount of liberty, justice, security,
6 opportunity, prosperity, happiness, peace, and good ever known or
7 experienced by humankind throughout the history of the world.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 42.20
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) No state or local official or employee, or agent of the state
11 of Washington, or employee of a corporation providing services to the
12 state of Washington, or member of the national guard or state defense
13 forces acting in his or her capacity as a state or local official or
14 employee, or agent of the state of Washington, or employee of a
15 corporation providing services to the state of Washington, or member
16 of the national guard or state defense forces, shall knowingly
17 cooperate with an investigation or detainment of a United States
18 citizen or lawful resident alien located within the United States of
19 America by the armed forces of the United States of America, except
20 for (a) an investigation or detainment by the United States coast
21 guard when it is not operating as a service in the navy, (b) an
22 investigation or detainment by national guard units or state defense
23 forces while under the authority of the governor of the state of
24 Washington, or (c) an internal investigation or detainment by the
25 armed forces of the United States of America of active duty members
26 of the armed forces of the United States of America.

27 (2) A violation of this section is a class C felony.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 38.40
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) No member of the armed forces of the United States of
31 America, nor any person acting directly with, or on behalf of, the
32 armed forces of the United States of America, shall be permitted to
33 conduct within the boundaries of the state of Washington, an
34 investigation or detainment of a United States citizen or lawful
35 resident alien located within the state of Washington except for (a)
36 an investigation or detainment by the United States coast guard when
37 it is not operating as a service in the navy, (b) an investigation or
38 detainment by national guard units or state defense forces while

1 under the authority of the governor of the state of Washington, or
2 (c) an internal investigation or detainment by the armed forces of
3 the United States of America of active duty members of the armed
4 forces of the United States of America.

5 (2) A violation of this section is a class C felony.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The provisions of this act shall be
7 construed liberally to effectuate the intent, purposes, and policies
8 of this act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If any provision of this act or its
10 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
11 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
12 persons or circumstances is not affected.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
15 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
16 effect immediately.

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