
HOUSE BILL 1860

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Volz, Riccelli, Couture, Leavitt, and Schmidt

Read first time 04/22/23. Referred to Committee on Consumer Protection & Business.

1 AN ACT Relating to stay-to-play requirements; and adding a new
2 chapter to Title 19 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a
5 practice known as stay-to-play that requires nonlocal teams or
6 individual participants to stay at a specific lodging accommodation
7 in order to participate in a tournament or event. The tournament or
8 event organizers work with entities, typically hotels, to secure
9 blocks of rooms at negotiated rates, with the organizer typically
10 receiving a rebate from the hotel. Any nonlocal team, which is
11 usually defined by a specified distance, often 60 to 100 miles away,
12 must book their accommodations through a lodging process on the event
13 or tournament website. This allows the organizer to track and account
14 for rooms in order to demonstrate economic impact to the city or
15 facility hosting the event or tournament.

16 The legislature finds that in some instances teams who do not
17 book through the tournament or event, or do not book a minimum number
18 of rooms, will be removed from the tournament and in some cases are
19 fined. Some tournaments and events allow teams or participants to opt
20 out of the stay-to-play policy if they pay an opt-out fee to the
21 organizer. This could include participants who want to stay with

1 family, use a timeshare, book a short-term rental house, or camp. The
2 legislature recognizes that while stay-to-play policies benefit the
3 event and tournament organizers, families are left with fewer
4 accommodation choices in terms of type, location, and price; are not
5 permitted to book accommodations using military benefits, rewards
6 programs, or accumulated points; and are forced to pay certain
7 accommodation rates, on top of event or tournament registration fees,
8 in order to allow their children to participate in extracurricular
9 activities, such as cheer competitions or soccer tournaments.
10 Therefore, the legislature finds that this is an unfair business
11 practice that limits free market choice and competition, and is
12 prohibitive and restrictive for Washington families.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) An entity may not require a team or
14 participant of an extracurricular activity to stay at a specific
15 lodging accommodation as a requirement for participation in an event
16 or tournament.

17 (2) The legislature finds that the practices covered by this
18 section are matters vitally affecting the public interest for the
19 purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. A
20 violation of this section is not reasonable in relation to the
21 development and preservation of business and is an unfair or
22 deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of
23 competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act,
24 chapter 19.86 RCW.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a
26 new chapter in Title 19 RCW.

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