
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2265

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By House Civil Rights & Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Doglio and Walen)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to encouraging and protecting the sport of rock
2 climbing by establishing climbing facility regulations and
3 requirements; amending RCW 67.42.010; adding a new chapter to Title
4 18 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that practicing the
7 sport of rock climbing in a climbing facility helps facilitate
8 equitable and adaptive access to physical activity that significantly
9 contributes to the Washington state recreational activity economy.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
11 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
12 otherwise.

13 (1) "Climbing facility" means a facility or premises that
14 contains a fixed, artificial climbing surface used by the public, not
15 located in an amusement park, carnival, family entertainment center,
16 or on public land, that is designed and built for the sport of
17 climbing.

18 (2) "Climbing facility operator" means a person or entity who
19 owns, manages, controls, directs, or has operational responsibility
20 for a climbing facility.

1 (3) "Climbing facility participant" means a person in a climbing
2 facility for the purpose of engaging in the sport of climbing.
3 "Climbing facility participant" includes anyone utilizing a climbing
4 wall or personal protective equipment, belaying, or spectating in a
5 climbing facility.

6 (4) "Personal protective equipment" means harnesses, carabiners,
7 belay devices, auto belay devices, ropes, and other items designed to
8 protect a participant from injury while using a climbing facility.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Climbing facility operators shall comply
10 with indoor climbing industry custom and practice regarding the
11 operation of indoor climbing facilities, including:

12 (1) Posting clearly legible rules and warnings for climbing
13 facility participants in a conspicuous location in the climbing
14 facility; and

15 (2) Conducting inspections of the manufactured climbing walls on
16 a regular periodic basis.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act constitute a
18 new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

19 **Sec. 5.** RCW 67.42.010 and 1993 c 203 s 2 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
22 this section apply throughout this chapter.

23 (1) "Amusement structure" means electrical or mechanical devices
24 or combinations of devices operated for revenue and to provide
25 amusement or entertainment to viewers or audiences at carnivals,
26 fairs, or amusement parks. "Amusement structure" also means a bungee
27 jumping device regardless of where located. "Amusement structure"
28 does not include games in which a member of the public must perform
29 an act, nor concessions at which customers may make purchases.

30 (2) "Amusement ride" means any vehicle, boat, bungee jumping
31 device, or other mechanical device moving upon or within a structure,
32 along cables or rails, through the air by centrifugal force or
33 otherwise, or across water, that is used to convey one or more
34 individuals for amusement, entertainment, diversion, or recreation.
35 "Amusement ride" includes, but is not limited to, devices commonly
36 known as skyrides, ferris wheels, carousels, parachute towers,
37 tunnels of love, bungee jumping devices, and roller coasters.

1 "Amusement ride" does not include: (a) Conveyances for persons in
2 recreational winter sports activities such as ski lifts, ski tows, j-
3 bars, t-bars, and similar devices subject to regulation under chapter
4 (~~70.88~~) 79A.40 RCW; (b) any single-passenger coin-operated ride
5 that is manually, mechanically, or electrically operated and
6 customarily placed in a public location and that does not normally
7 require the supervision or services of an operator; (c) nonmechanized
8 playground equipment, including but not limited to, swings, seesaws,
9 stationary spring-mounted animal features, rider-propelled merry-go-
10 grounds, climbers, slides, trampolines, and physical fitness devices;
11 (~~or~~) (d) water slides; or (e) a fixed, artificial climbing surface
12 built for the sport of rock climbing used in a climbing facility. For
13 purposes of this subsection, "climbing facility" means a facility or
14 premises that contains a fixed, artificial climbing surface used by
15 the public, not located in an amusement park, carnival, family
16 entertainment center, or on public land, that is designed and built
17 for the sport of climbing.

18 (3) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

19 (4) "Insurance policy" means an insurance policy written by an
20 insurer authorized to do business in this state under Title 48 RCW.

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