
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6380

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Vognild and McAuliffe)

Read first time 02/04/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to defining the responsibilities and liabilities of
2 skating center operators and persons who use skating centers; and
3 adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act shall be known as the skating
6 center safety and skater's responsibility act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
8 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
9 chapter.

10 (1) "Skating center operator" means a person or entity that owns,
11 manages, or controls, or that has operational responsibility for, an
12 ice or roller skating center. An operator may include the state, a
13 political subdivision of the state, or other municipal entity.

14 (2) "Skating center" means a building, facility, or premises that
15 provides an area specifically designed to be used by the public for ice
16 or roller skating.

17 (3) "Skater" means a person wearing ice or roller skates while in
18 a skating center for the purpose of ice or roller skating. It also

1 includes a person in a skating center who is an invitee, whether or not
2 the person pays consideration.

3 (4) "Spectator" means a person who is present in a skating center
4 only for the purpose of observing skating activity.

5 (5) "Floor supervisor" means an employee of a skating center who
6 observes and supervises skating within the rink.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Each skating center operator shall do all of
8 the following:

9 (1) Post in two or more conspicuous places in the skating center
10 the duties of skaters and spectators and the inherent risks of skating
11 as provided in this chapter;

12 (2) Maintain the stability and legibility of all signs, symbols,
13 and posted notices required by this chapter;

14 (3) When the skating center is open for sessions, have at least one
15 floor supervisor for every approximately two hundred skaters;

16 (4) Maintain the skating surface in reasonably safe condition and
17 clean and inspect the skating surface before each session;

18 (5) Maintain the railings, kickboards, and wall surrounding the
19 skating surface in reasonably good condition;

20 (6) Install fire extinguishers and inspect them at recommended
21 intervals; and

22 (7) Check rental skates on a regular basis to ensure the skates are
23 in reasonably good working order.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** While in a skating center, each skater shall
25 do all of the following:

26 (1) Maintain control of his or her speed and course at all times;

27 (2) Read and obey all posted signs and warnings;

28 (3) Be alert and observant and maintain a proper lookout to avoid
29 other skaters, spectators, and objects;

30 (4) When attempting to overtake another skater, a skater shall do
31 so in a manner that will avoid collision with objects and other persons
32 in that skater's field of vision and direction of travel;

33 (5) Accept the responsibility for knowing the range of his or her
34 own ability to negotiate the intended direction of travel while on
35 skates and to skate within the limits of that ability; and

36 (6) Refrain from acting in a manner that may cause or contribute to
37 injury to himself or herself or to any other person.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Every skater, spectator, or other person who
2 participates in skating activity, is deemed to know about and accept
3 the inherent risks of skating, insofar as those risks are obvious and
4 necessary. Those risks include, but are not limited to, injuries that
5 result from contact with other skaters, spectators, or other persons;
6 injuries that result from ordinary loss of balance and falls; and
7 injuries that involve other objects or artificial structures visibly
8 within the intended path of travel.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A skater, spectator, or skating center
10 operator who violates this chapter may be liable in a civil action for
11 damages, but only if and to the extent the loss or damage was
12 proximately caused by the violation. Skating center operators shall
13 not be liable to skaters or spectators for injuries that result from
14 the inherent risks of skating. A skater's or spectator's violation of
15 the duties and responsibilities in section 4 of this act or the
16 assumption of risk set forth in section 5 of this act shall be a
17 rebuttable defense in a lawsuit against a skating center operator by a
18 skater or spectator for injuries sustained while engaged in skating
19 activity and that result from either the violation of section 4 of this
20 act or the assumption of risk in section 5 of this act.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall
22 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any provision of this act or its
24 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
25 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
26 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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