
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6117

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators McCaslin and Winsley)

Read first time 01/28/2000.

1 AN ACT Relating to interference with school activities; amending
2 RCW 28A.635.090 and 28A.635.100; creating a new section; repealing RCW
3 28A.635.120; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that incidents of
6 violence in schools raise concerns about ensuring and promoting school
7 safety. For learning to occur, schools must first be safe places for
8 children, teachers, and other school employees. Recognizing that
9 violent behavior tends to escalate if tolerated, it is the intent of
10 the legislature to provide targeted and appropriate sanctions for the
11 interference with school activities by force or violence before it
12 rises to the level of substantial or grievous bodily harm.

13 The legislature further finds that interscholastic activities
14 provide valuable opportunities for participants to develop social and
15 personal skills that can be useful throughout their lives. These
16 activities also benefit other students and spectators by building
17 school spirit, unity, community support, and community identity.
18 Interscholastic activities would not be possible without the commitment
19 of officials, judges, referees, and volunteers who work at the events

1 for little or no financial gain. The legislature finds that the values
2 engendered in interscholastic activities are being undermined by
3 participants and spectators who do not respect the commitment of these
4 officials. Increasingly, these people are expressing their
5 dissatisfaction through inappropriate verbal abuse and behavior
6 directed at the officials. The legislature recognizes that officials,
7 judges, referees, and volunteers at interscholastic events are
8 particularly vulnerable to inappropriate conduct because their
9 attention is focused on the conduct of the events. The legislature
10 intends to provide additional support and protection for officials
11 conducting interscholastic events.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.635.090 and 1996 c 321 s 3 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) It (~~shall be~~) is unlawful for any person, singly or in
15 concert with others, to interfere by force or violence with any
16 administrator, teacher, classified employee, person under contract with
17 the school or school district, sports official certified by or
18 registered with the Washington interscholastic activities association,
19 or student of any common school who is in the peaceful discharge or
20 conduct of his or her duties or studies.

21 (2) Any such interference by force or violence committed by a
22 student shall be grounds for immediate suspension or expulsion of the
23 student. If the interference is committed by a student at an
24 interscholastic activity, the student may be excluded from
25 participating in or attending that activity for up to twelve months.

26 (3) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a gross
27 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereon, shall be fined not more than
28 five hundred dollars, or imprisoned in jail not more than six months,
29 or both such fine and imprisonment. A person, other than a student,
30 shall, upon conviction, be excluded from entering the school where the
31 crime was committed or attending the interscholastic activity in which
32 the crime was committed for a period of up to twelve months.

33 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.635.100 and 1990 c 33 s 541 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 It (~~shall be~~) is unlawful for any person, singly or in concert
36 with others, to intimidate by threat of force or violence any
37 administrator, teacher, classified employee, or student of any common

1 school who is in the peaceful discharge or conduct of his or her duties
2 or studies.

3 Any person who violates this section is guilty of a gross
4 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereon, shall be fined not more than
5 five hundred dollars, or imprisoned in jail not more than six months,
6 or both such fine and imprisonment.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.635.120 (Violations under RCW
8 28A.635.090 and 28A.635.100--Penalty) and 1990 c 33 s 543 & 1971 c 45
9 s 6 are each repealed.

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