
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2527

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House State Government & Tribal Relations (originally sponsored by Representatives Ramos, Kilduff, Gregerson, Valdez, Slatter, Ortiz-Self, Tarleton, Davis, Doglio, Callan, Ramel, Pollet, Hudgins, Ormsby, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting the rights of Washingtonians during
2 the United States census; adding a new section to chapter 43.62 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 9A.60 RCW; prescribing penalties; and
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.62
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to affirm that every
9 Washingtonian has the right and obligation to participate in the
10 federal decennial census freely and without fear of fraud,
11 intimidation, or harm, and to inform the public of these rights.

12 (2) The legislature affirms the rights of Washingtonians to all
13 of the following, to be known as the Washington census bill of rights
14 and responsibilities:

15 (a) To participate in the federal decennial census free of threat
16 or intimidation;

17 (b) To the confidentiality of the information provided in the
18 census form, as provided by federal law;

19 (c) To respond to the census by means made available to the
20 respondent, either by phone, by mail, online, or in person;

1 (d) To request language assistance in accordance with federal
2 law; and

3 (e) To verify the identity of a census worker.

4 (3) The secretary of state shall translate the Washington census
5 bill of rights and responsibilities into languages other than
6 English, consistent with the federal voting rights act of 1965, 52
7 U.S.C. Sec. 10503.

8 (4) The office of financial management shall make the Washington
9 census bill of rights and responsibilities available on its internet
10 web site and available for inclusion on city and county census
11 internet web sites and census questionnaire assistance center
12 internet web sites.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9A.60
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) A person is guilty of impersonating a census taker if the
16 person falsely represents that he or she is a census taker with the
17 intent to:

18 (a) Interfere with the operation of the census;

19 (b) Obtain information; or

20 (c) Obtain consent to enter a private dwelling.

21 (2) Impersonating a census taker is a gross misdemeanor.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
24 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
25 effect immediately.

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