
SENATE BILL 6231

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Lovelett, Kuderer, Nguyen, and Nobles

Read first time 01/15/24. Referred to Committee on Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the use of hostile architecture
2 elements for publicly accessible buildings or real property; adding a
3 new section to chapter 35.63 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
4 35A.63 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36.70 RCW; and providing
5 an effective date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.63
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) A city may not install or construct hostile architecture
10 elements designed to restrict the use of any public space by people
11 experiencing homelessness.

12 (2) For the purposes of this section:

13 (a) "Public space" means any publicly accessible building or real
14 property owned or operated by the city.

15 (b) "Hostile architecture" means any building or structure that
16 is designed or intended to prevent people experiencing homelessness
17 from sitting or lying on the building or structure at street level.
18 "Hostile architecture" does not include design elements intended to
19 prevent individuals from skateboarding or rollerblading, or to
20 prevent vehicles from entering certain areas.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35A.63
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) A code city may not install or construct hostile architecture
4 elements designed to restrict the use of any public space by people
5 experiencing homelessness.

6 (2) For the purposes of this section:

7 (a) "Public space" means any publicly accessible building or real
8 property owned or operated by the code city.

9 (b) "Hostile architecture" means any building or structure that
10 is designed or intended to prevent people experiencing homelessness
11 from sitting or lying on the building or structure at street level.
12 "Hostile architecture" does not include design elements intended to
13 prevent individuals from skateboarding or rollerblading, or to
14 prevent vehicles from entering certain areas.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) A county may not install or construct hostile architecture
18 elements designed to restrict the use of any public space by people
19 experiencing homelessness.

20 (2) For the purposes of this section:

21 (a) "Public space" means any publicly accessible building or real
22 property owned or operated by the county.

23 (b) "Hostile architecture" means any building or structure that
24 is designed or intended to prevent people experiencing homelessness
25 from sitting or lying on the building or structure at street level.
26 "Hostile architecture" does not include design elements intended to
27 prevent individuals from skateboarding or rollerblading, or to
28 prevent vehicles from entering certain areas.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect January 1, 2025.

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