

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 1536

Chapter 384, Laws of 2023

68th Legislature
2023 Regular Session

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS—WITHHOLDING FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 23, 2023

Passed by the House February 27, 2023
Yeas 74 Nays 21

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2023
Yeas 28 Nays 21

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Approved May 9, 2023 2:17 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1536** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 10, 2023

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE BILL 1536

Passed Legislature - 2023 Regular Session

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Timmons, Harris, Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, Walen, Ramel, Morgan, Stonier, Gregerson, Ormsby, and Paul

Read first time 01/24/23. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to requirements governing the withholding of high
2 school diplomas; and amending RCW 28A.635.060.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.635.060 and 2021 c 120 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) (a) Any pupil who defaces or otherwise injures any school
7 property, or property belonging to a school contractor, employee, or
8 another student, may be subject to suspension and punishment. If any
9 property of the school district, a contractor of the district, an
10 employee, or another student has been lost or willfully cut, defaced,
11 or injured, with the damages exceeding \$1,000, the school district
12 may withhold the diploma, but not the grades or transcripts, of the
13 student responsible for the damage or loss for the earlier of either
14 five years from the date of the student's graduation or until the
15 ~~((student or the student's parent or guardian has paid for the~~
16 ~~damages. When))~~ amount owed is less than \$1,000.

17 (b) If the student and parent or guardian are unable to pay for
18 the damages, the school district shall provide a program of community
19 service for the student in lieu of the payment of monetary damages.
20 Community service completed in accordance with this subsection (1)(b)
21 must be credited at the applicable local or state minimum wage,

1 whichever is greater. Upon the completion of community service that
2 reduces the amount owed to less than \$1,000, the diploma of the
3 student must be released. The parent or guardian of the student shall
4 be liable for damages as otherwise provided by law.

5 (2) Before the diploma is withheld under this section, a school
6 district board of directors shall adopt procedures (~~(which insure)~~)
7 to ensure that students' rights to due process are protected.

8 (3) If the department of social and health services or a child-
9 placing agency licensed by the department has been granted custody of
10 a child, that child's records, if requested by the department or
11 agency, (~~(are not to)~~) may not be withheld for nonpayment of school
12 fees or any other reason.

13 (4) (~~(a)~~) Each school district that withholds a diploma under
14 this section shall publish and maintain the following information on
15 its website, either with information published under RCW 28A.325.050
16 or in a different location on its website that facilitates easy
17 access to the information:

18 (~~(i)~~) (a) The number of diplomas withheld under this section,
19 by graduating class, during the (~~(previous three)~~) preceding five
20 school years, with data from the prior reporting year updated
21 annually to reflect the release of diplomas in accordance with this
22 section; and

23 (~~(ii)~~) (b) The number of students with withheld diplomas who
24 were eligible for free or reduced-price meals during their last two
25 years of enrollment in the school district.

26 (~~(b) To the extent practicable, school districts must publish~~
27 ~~the information required by this subsection (4) with the information~~
28 ~~published under RCW 28A.325.050.)~~)

Passed by the House February 27, 2023.

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2023.

Approved by the Governor May 9, 2023.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 10, 2023.

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