

HB 1046 - H AMD 15

By Representative Jacobsen

NOT ADOPTED 01/30/2025

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 4.24
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The definitions in this section apply throughout sections 2 and 3
6 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

7 (1) "Domestic animal" means a dog, cat, or other animal that is
8 domesticated and may be kept as a household pet. The term does not
9 include livestock or other farm animals.

10 (2) "First responder" means any: (a) Animal control officer as
11 defined in RCW 16.52.011; (b) firefighter as defined in RCW 41.18.010
12 or 41.24.010; (c) emergency medical technician as defined in RCW
13 18.73.030; (d) federal peace officer, general authority Washington
14 peace officer, limited authority Washington peace officer, reserve
15 officer, or specially commissioned Washington peace officer, as those
16 terms are defined in RCW 10.93.020; or (e) other professional with
17 training or certification relating to emergency rescue or response.

18 (3) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in RCW
19 46.04.320.

20 (4) "Vulnerable person" means a person under the age of 18 years
21 or a person whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily
22 living or to provide for their own care or protection is impaired due
23 to a mental, emotional, sensory, long-term physical, or developmental
24 disability or dysfunction, or brain damage, or the infirmities of
25 aging.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 A person who enters a motor vehicle, by force or otherwise, for
29 the purpose of removing a vulnerable person is immune from civil
30 liability for damage to the motor vehicle if the person:

1 (1) Determines the motor vehicle is locked or there is otherwise
2 no reasonable method for the vulnerable person to exit the motor
3 vehicle without assistance;

4 (2) Has a good faith and reasonable belief, based upon the known
5 circumstances, that entry into the motor vehicle is necessary because
6 the vulnerable person is in imminent danger of suffering harm;

7 (3) Ensures that law enforcement is notified or 911 called before
8 entering the motor vehicle or immediately thereafter;

9 (4) Uses no more force to enter the motor vehicle and remove the
10 vulnerable person than is necessary; and

11 (5) Remains with the vulnerable person in a safe location, in
12 reasonable proximity to the motor vehicle, until law enforcement or
13 other first responders arrive.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 A first responder who enters a motor vehicle, by force or
17 otherwise, for the purpose of removing a domestic animal is immune
18 from civil liability for damage to the motor vehicle if the first
19 responder:

20 (1) Determines the motor vehicle is locked or there is otherwise
21 no reasonable method for the domestic animal to exit the motor
22 vehicle without assistance;

23 (2) Has a good faith and reasonable belief, based upon the known
24 circumstances, that entry into the motor vehicle is necessary because
25 the domestic animal is in imminent danger of suffering harm;

26 (3) Ensures that law enforcement is notified or 911 called before
27 entering the motor vehicle or immediately thereafter;

28 (4) Uses no more force to enter the motor vehicle and remove the
29 domestic animal than is necessary; and

30 (5) Remains with the domestic animal in a safe location, in
31 reasonable proximity to the motor vehicle, until the domestic animal
32 can be turned over to its owner, animal control, or another public
33 authority."

34 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Limits the bill's original immunity provision to only
cover the rescue of vulnerable persons, excluding the rescue of
domestic animals from its scope. Adds a new immunity provision with
similar requirements for the rescue of domestic animals that only

applies to rescues by first responders. Defines first responders as any animal control officer; firefighter; emergency medical technician; federal peace officer, general authority Washington peace officer, limited authority Washington peace officer, reserve officer, or specially commissioned Washington peace officer; or other professional with training or certification relating to emergency rescue or response.

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