

SB 5272 - S AMD 519
By Senator Lovick

ADOPTED 01/28/2026

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

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

12 (2) The legislature understands that extracurricular athletics
13 provide valuable opportunities for students to develop social and
14 personal skills that can be useful throughout their lives. These
15 activities also benefit other students and spectators by building
16 school spirit, unity, community support, and community identity.
17 Extracurricular athletics would not be possible without the
18 commitment of officials, judges, referees, and volunteers who work at
19 the events for little or no financial gain. The legislature finds
20 that the values engendered in interscholastic activities are being
21 undermined by participants and spectators who do not respect the
22 commitment of these officials. Increasingly, these people are
23 expressing their dissatisfaction through inappropriate verbal abuse
24 and behavior directed at the officials. The legislature recognizes
25 that officials, such as judges and referees, and volunteers acting as
26 officials, for extracurricular athletic activities of elementary and
27 secondary school students are particularly vulnerable to
28 inappropriate conduct because their attention is focused on the
29 athletic activities. Thus, the legislature intends to provide
30 additional support and protection for officials conducting
31 interscholastic events.

1 (3) The legislature finds that violence against public and
2 private students and staff is unacceptable. Thus, to promote a safe
3 learning environment, the legislature intends to increase the penalty
4 for those who deliberately ignore posted warnings against acts of
5 intimidation or violence against school athletic officials.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.635.090 and 2003 c 53 s 169 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) It (~~shall be~~) is unlawful for any person, singly or in
9 concert with others, to interfere by force or violence with (~~any~~
10 ~~administrator, teacher, classified employee, person under contract~~
11 ~~with the school or school district, or student of any common school~~
12 ~~who~~) an employee or contractor of a public or private elementary or
13 secondary school, an elementary or secondary student, or an official
14 or volunteer acting as an official for extracurricular athletic
15 activities of elementary or secondary students, while that person is
16 in the peaceful discharge or conduct of his or her duties or studies.
17 (~~Any such interference by force or violence committed by a student~~
18 ~~shall be grounds for immediate suspension or expulsion of the~~
19 ~~student.~~)

20 (2) A person violating this section is guilty of a gross
21 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than (~~five hundred dollars~~)
22 \$1,000, or imprisoned in jail not more than (~~six months~~) 364 days,
23 or both such fine and imprisonment. Upon conviction, a person, other
24 than a student, must be excluded from entering the school where the
25 crime was committed or from attending the extracurricular athletic
26 activities in which the crime was committed, for a period of no less
27 than 12 months and no more than 18 months.

28 (3) As used in this section, "public school" has the same meaning
29 as in RCW 28A.150.010.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.635.100 and 2003 c 53 s 170 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) It (~~shall be~~) is unlawful for any person, singly or in
33 concert with others, to intimidate by threat of force or violence
34 (~~any administrator, teacher, classified employee, or student of any~~
35 ~~common school who~~) an employee or contractor of a public or private
36 elementary or secondary school, an elementary or secondary student,
37 or an official or volunteer acting as an official for extracurricular
38 athletic activities of elementary or secondary students, while that

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

3 (2) A person violating this section is guilty of a gross
4 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than (~~five hundred dollars~~)
5 \$500, or imprisoned in jail not more than six months, or both such
6 fine and imprisonment."

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7 On page 1, line 4 of the title, after "penalties;" strike the
8 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.635.090 and
9 28A.635.100; and creating a new section."

EFFECT: (1) Removes requirements related to signage notifying the public of the offenses of Interference by Force or Violence and Intimidation by Threat of Force or Violence and possible penalties.

(2) Removes language providing that a public school student's interference by force or violence is grounds for emergency removal and a student may be excluded from participating in or attending an extracurricular athletic activity for up to 12 months.

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