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**HOUSE BILL 1046**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Leavitt, Low, and Ryu

Prefiled 12/11/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting the vulnerable by providing  
2 immunity from civil liability for damage to a motor vehicle arising  
3 from the rescue of vulnerable persons or domestic animals; and adding  
4 new sections to chapter 4.24 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 The definitions in this section apply throughout section 2 of  
9 this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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

13 (2) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in RCW  
14 46.04.320.

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

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

3        A person who enters a motor vehicle, by force or otherwise, for  
4 the purpose of removing a vulnerable person or domestic animal is  
5 immune from civil liability for damage to the motor vehicle if the  
6 person:

7            (1) Determines the motor vehicle is locked or there is otherwise  
8 no reasonable method for the vulnerable person or domestic animal to  
9 exit the motor vehicle without assistance;

10           (2) Has a good faith and reasonable belief, based upon the known  
11 circumstances, that entry into the motor vehicle is necessary because  
12 the vulnerable person or domestic animal is in imminent danger of  
13 suffering harm;

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

16           (4) Uses no more force to enter the motor vehicle and remove the  
17 vulnerable person or domestic animal than is necessary; and

18           (5) Remains with the vulnerable person or domestic animal in a  
19 safe location, in reasonable proximity to the motor vehicle, until  
20 law enforcement, animal control, or other first responders arrive.

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