
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5272

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Lovick, Krishnadasan, and Saldaña

Read first time 01/15/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving school safety by extending penalties
2 for interference by, or intimidation by threat of, force or violence
3 at schools and extracurricular activities and requiring schools to
4 notify the public of such penalties; amending RCW 28A.635.090 and
5 28A.635.100; and creating a new section.

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

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

16 (2) The legislature understands that extracurricular athletics
17 provide valuable opportunities for students to develop social and
18 personal skills that can be useful throughout their lives. These
19 activities also benefit other students and spectators by building
20 school spirit, unity, community support, and community identity.
21 Extracurricular athletics would not be possible without the

1 commitment of officials, judges, referees, and volunteers who work at
2 the events for little or no financial gain. The legislature finds
3 that the values engendered in interscholastic activities are being
4 undermined by participants and spectators who do not respect the
5 commitment of these officials. Increasingly, these people are
6 expressing their dissatisfaction through inappropriate verbal abuse
7 and behavior directed at the officials. The legislature recognizes
8 that officials, such as judges and referees, and volunteers acting as
9 officials, for extracurricular athletic activities of elementary and
10 secondary school students are particularly vulnerable to
11 inappropriate conduct because their attention is focused on the
12 athletic activities. Thus, the legislature intends to provide
13 additional support and protection for officials conducting
14 interscholastic events.

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

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

22 (1) It (~~((shall be))~~) is unlawful for any person, singly or in
23 concert with others, to interfere by force or violence with (~~(any~~
24 ~~administrator, teacher, classified employee, person under contract~~
25 ~~with the school or school district, or student of any common school~~
26 ~~who)) an employee or contractor of a public or private elementary or
27 secondary school, an elementary or secondary student, or an official
28 or volunteer acting as an official for extracurricular athletic
29 activities of elementary or secondary students, while that person is
30 in the peaceful discharge or conduct of his or her duties or studies.
31 (~~((Any such interference by force or violence committed by a student~~
32 ~~shall be grounds for immediate suspension or expulsion of the~~
33 ~~student.))~~)~~

34 (2) A person violating this section is guilty of a gross
35 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than (~~((five hundred dollars))~~)
36 \$1,000, or imprisoned in jail not more than (~~((six months))~~) 364 days,
37 or both such fine and imprisonment. Upon conviction, a person, other
38 than a student, must be excluded from entering the school where the
39 crime was committed or from attending the extracurricular athletic

1 activities in which the crime was committed, for a period of no less
2 than 12 months and no more than 18 months.

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

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

7 (1) It (~~shall be~~) is unlawful for any person, singly or in
8 concert with others, to intimidate by threat of force or violence
9 (~~any administrator, teacher, classified employee, or student of any~~
10 ~~common school who~~) an employee or contractor of a public or private
11 elementary or secondary school, an elementary or secondary student,
12 or an official or volunteer acting as an official for extracurricular
13 athletic activities of elementary or secondary students, while that
14 person is in the peaceful discharge or conduct of his or her duties
15 or studies.

16 (2) A person violating this section is guilty of a gross
17 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than (~~five hundred dollars~~)
18 \$500, or imprisoned in jail not more than six months, or both such
19 fine and imprisonment.

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