
SENATE BILL 6013

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Torres, Chapman, Dozier, Lovelett, Nobles, Stanford, and J. Wilson; by request of Parks and Recreation Commission

Prefiled 01/07/26. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to updating terminology related to ski areas and
2 winter sports activities; and amending RCW 79A.40.010, 79A.45.030,
3 and 79A.45.060.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 79A.40.010 and 2014 c 133 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Every owner or operator of any recreational device designed and
8 operated for the conveyance of persons which aids in promoting
9 entertainment, pleasure, play, relaxation, or instruction,
10 specifically including devices generally associated with winter
11 sports activities such as aerial tramways, aerial lifts, surface
12 lifts, tows, and conveyors, and similar devices and equipment, shall
13 construct, furnish, maintain, and provide safe and adequate
14 facilities and equipment with which safely and properly to receive
15 and transport all persons offered to and received by the owner or
16 operator of such devices, and to promote the safety of such owner's
17 or operator's patrons, employees and the public. The owner or
18 operator of the devices and equipment covered by this section shall
19 be deemed not to be a common carrier.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 79A.45.030 and 1989 c 81 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) In addition to the specific requirements of this section, all
4 skiers shall conduct themselves within the limits of their individual
5 ability and shall not act in a manner that may contribute to the
6 injury of themselves or any other person.

7 (2) No person shall:

8 (a) Embark or disembark upon a ski lift except at a designated
9 area;

10 (b) Throw or expel any object from any aerial tramway, ~~((ski))~~
11 aerial lift, ((commercial skimobile)) surface lift, tow, or conveyor,
12 or other similar device while riding on the device;

13 (c) Act in any manner while riding on ~~((a rope tow, wire rope~~
14 ~~tow, j-bar, t-bar, ski lift))~~ an aerial tramway, aerial lift, surface
15 lift, tow, or conveyor, or similar device that may interfere with the
16 proper or safe operation of the lift or tow;

17 (d) Wilfully engage in any type of conduct which may injure any
18 person, or place any object in the uphill ski track which may cause
19 another to fall, while traveling uphill on a ski lift; or

20 (e) Cross the uphill track of ~~((a j-bar, t-bar, rope tow, wire~~
21 ~~rope tow))~~ an aerial tramway, aerial lift, surface lift, tow, or
22 conveyor, or other similar device except at designated locations.

23 (3) Every person shall maintain control of his or her speed and
24 course at all times, and shall stay clear of any snowgrooming
25 equipment, any vehicle, any lift tower, and any other equipment on
26 the mountain.

27 (4) A person shall be the sole judge of his or her ability to
28 negotiate any trail, run, or uphill track and no action shall be
29 maintained against any operator by reason of the condition of the
30 track, trail, or run unless the condition results from the negligence
31 of the operator.

32 (5) Any person who boards ~~((a rope tow, wire rope tow, j-bar, t-~~
33 ~~bar, ski lift))~~ an aerial tramway, aerial lift, surface lift, tow, or
34 conveyor, or other similar device shall be presumed to have
35 sufficient abilities to use the device. No liability shall attach to
36 any operator or attendant for failure to instruct the person on the
37 use of the device, but a person shall follow any written or verbal
38 instructions that are given regarding the use.

39 (6) Because of the inherent risks in the sport of skiing all
40 persons using the ski hill shall exercise reasonable care for their

1 own safety. However, the primary duty shall be on the person skiing
2 downhill to avoid any collision with any person or object below him
3 or her.

4 (7) Any person skiing outside the confines of trails open for
5 skiing or runs open for skiing within the ski area boundary shall be
6 responsible for any injuries or losses resulting from his or her
7 action.

8 (8) Any person on foot or on any type of sliding device shall be
9 responsible for any collision whether the collision is with another
10 person or with an object.

11 (9) A person embarking on ((a)) any tramway, lift, or tow without
12 authority shall be considered to be a trespasser.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 79A.45.060 and 2014 c 133 s 6 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) Every operator of an aerial tramway, aerial lift, surface
16 lift, tow, or conveyor, or similar device shall maintain liability
17 insurance of not less than one million dollars per occurrence.

18 (2) This section shall not apply to operators of tramways that
19 are not open to the general public and that are operated without
20 charge, except that this section shall apply to operators of tramways
21 that are operated by schools, ski clubs, or similar organizations.

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