

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5272

Chapter 155, Laws of 2026

69th Legislature
2026 Regular Session

SCHOOLS—INTERFERENCE OR INTIMIDATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2026

Passed by the Senate March 9, 2026
Yeas 47 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 3, 2026
Yeas 92 Nays 2

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Approved March 23, 2026 3:27 PM

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5272** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

Secretary

FILED

March 24, 2026

BOB FERGUSON

Governor of the State of Washington

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5272

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2026 Regular Session

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) If a public school student interferes as described in
35 subsection (1) of this section, the interference is grounds for the
36 student's emergency removal, subject to RCW 28A.600.015. If a public
37 school student interferes as described in subsection (1) of this
38 section during extracurricular athletic activities, the student may
39 be excluded from participating in or attending that activity.

1 (3) A person violating this section is guilty of a gross
2 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than ~~((five hundred dollars))~~
3 \$500, or imprisoned in jail not more than six months, or both such
4 fine and imprisonment. Upon conviction, a person, other than a
5 student, must be excluded from entering the school where the crime
6 was committed or from attending the extracurricular athletic
7 activities in which the crime was committed, for a period of no less
8 than 12 months and no more than 18 months.

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

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

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

22 (2) A person violating this section is guilty of a gross
23 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than ~~((five hundred dollars))~~
24 \$500, or imprisoned in jail not more than six months, or both such
25 fine and imprisonment.

Passed by the Senate March 9, 2026.

Passed by the House March 3, 2026.

Approved by the Governor March 23, 2026.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 24, 2026.

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