

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5176

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Education, February 1, 1999

**Title:** An act relating to refusals to leave school property.

**Brief Description:** Requiring the arrest of persons who willfully refuse to leave school grounds after being ordered to do so.

**Sponsors:** Senators McAuliffe, Eide, Long, Costa, Goings, Oke, Winsley and Rasmussen.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Education: 1/18/99, 2/1/99 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5176 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators McAuliffe, Chair; Eide, Vice Chair; Bauer, Benton, Brown, Finkbeiner, Goings, Hochstatter, Kohl-Welles, Rasmussen, Sellar, Swecker and Zarelli.

**Staff:** Natalie Adams (786-7444)

**Background:** Under the current law, it is a gross misdemeanor for individuals to remain on school property after being ordered to leave. Some school districts have had experiences where law enforcement officers were reluctant to arrest trespassers.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** Police officers may arrest individuals who refuse to leave school property after being ordered to leave. The new section is also added to the criminal code.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The arrest provision is changed from mandatory to discretionary.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** This bill will provide a useful tool for school officials when faced with trespassers who are creating a disturbance and will not leave school grounds voluntarily.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** PRO: Sherri Williams, Public School Employees; Joe Pope, Association of Washington School Principals.

