
HOUSE BILL 1337

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunn, Mielke, Gombosky, Carrell and Miloscia

Read first time 01/21/1999. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to public dissemination of information regarding
2 persons convicted of a crime; adding a new section to chapter 72.09
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the citizens of
6 this state are usually unaware of the presence of criminals, and
7 criminal activity, within their communities and neighborhoods. As a
8 consequence, law-abiding citizens are frequently unable to take
9 effective measures to protect themselves. Criminals have no right to
10 keep their identities hidden from the public, making law-abiding
11 citizens uninformed, unaware, unprotected, and vulnerable to further
12 harm. Far too often, criminals engage in repeat offenses within the
13 very community where they committed previous offenses and within the
14 very community where they currently reside. Because of the lack of
15 accessibility to information regarding criminals, and criminal
16 activity, citizens of the state needlessly suffer the many harmful
17 effects of crime, including injury to their person and property, loss
18 of life, financial loss, increased anxiety, and loss of a sense of
19 well-being.

1 Simple protective measures by responsible individuals will
2 frequently thwart criminal activity. However, a lack of pertinent
3 knowledge effectively hinders citizens from taking lawful, wise, crime-
4 preventative actions. The law-abiding public must have the basic
5 information necessary to protect their lives, their property, and the
6 ability to engage in the pursuit of happiness.

7 The internet is one of the most rapid and effective means of
8 communicating information available today. A large percentage of the
9 population is now online, and it appears likely that the internet will
10 be increasingly utilized as a means of receiving important information.
11 The legislature therefore concludes that it is in the best interest of
12 the public health, safety, and welfare that information regarding
13 criminals and criminal activity be posted on the internet and thereby
14 made available to the public at large.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 72.09 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) The department of corrections shall post information regarding
18 an offender on the internet within thirty days following his or her
19 conviction and subsequent custody to the department.

20 (2) The posting of information on the internet applies to
21 information regarding: (a) Any person convicted of a sex offense as
22 defined in RCW 9.94A.030; (b) any person under the jurisdiction of the
23 indeterminate sentence review board as the result of a sex offense; (c)
24 any person committed as a sexually violent predator under chapter 71.09
25 RCW or as a sexual psychopath under chapter 71.06 RCW; (d) any person
26 adjudicated or convicted of a felony classified as a violent offense
27 under chapter 9.94A RCW; and (e) any person convicted of an offense
28 involving the manufacture, delivery, or possession with intent to
29 deliver, a controlled substance under chapter 69.50 RCW.

30 (3) Within the limits of subsection (2) of this section, the
31 department shall post the following information:

32 (a) The name of the person and any aliases used by the person;

33 (b) The address of the person at the time the person was arrested
34 and the current address of the person;

35 (c) The court before which the person was tried and the name of the
36 presiding judge;

37 (d) The offense for which the person was convicted and the sentence
38 imposed on the person by the trial court;

1 (e) The person's age, height, weight, and other descriptive data,
2 such as a tattoo or other distinguishing marks;

3 (f) A copy of the person's mug shots and a photograph of the person
4 taken at the time of sentencing or upon release;

5 (g) The dates and duration that the person was or will be
6 incarcerated, the anticipated release date, the actual release date,
7 indication of whether the person served the complete sentence or was
8 released early for any reason, and indication of that reason; and

9 (h) A list of all previous felonies for which the person has been
10 convicted and the disposition of each conviction.

11 (4) The department shall ensure that the information required by
12 subsections (2) and (3) of this section is posted on the internet
13 regardless of whether the person to whom the information pertains has
14 filed an appeal of the underlying conviction or adjudication.

15 (5) The department shall ensure that the information required by
16 subsections (2) and (3) of this section remains on the internet during
17 the offender's incarceration within the department and for a total of
18 thirty days following the offender's release date from the department's
19 supervision.

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