
HOUSE BILL 2555

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Barlean, O'Brien, Haigh, Tokuda, Lovick, Edmonds, Carlson, Ruderman, Wolfe, Morris, Keiser, Rockefeller and Hurst

Read first time 01/17/2000. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to sex offenders; adding a new section to chapter
2 9A.44 RCW; creating a new section; prescribing penalties; and providing
3 an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Parks and playgrounds provide leisure time
6 activities and recreational facilities as a public service to families.
7 However, the legislature recognizes that high-risk homeless sex
8 offenders, known to reside in public parks, often create fear and pose
9 a risk to those adults, children, and families alike who wish to enjoy
10 and participate in the recreational activities that parks and
11 playgrounds provide. The legislature understands that it is difficult
12 to track the whereabouts of every sex offender and that it is also
13 impossible for law enforcement and park rangers to notify every family
14 when a sex offender enters and maintains a dwelling or campsite within
15 a public park. In response the state will try to continue playing a
16 vital role in protecting the public from sex offenders who remain in
17 the community following their conviction by prohibiting the dwelling of
18 sex offenders classified as moderate and high risk in public family
19 recreational areas. It is paramount to the state to ensure public

1 safety is best served to its citizens by continuing the upmost
2 protection to the community.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9A.44 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) A person classified as a risk level II or III sex offender may
6 not camp, maintain a camp or tent, be present, or sleep overnight
7 between dusk and 6 a.m.; dwell; reside; or maintain a temporary or
8 permanent residence of any kind on the grounds of any public park or
9 playground.

10 (2) A person classified as a risk level II or III sex offender who
11 dwells, resides, sleeps, or maintains a temporary or permanent
12 residence of any kind in a public park or playground is guilty of a
13 gross misdemeanor.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2001.

--- END ---