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SENATE BILL 5505

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      1999 Regular Session

By Senators Winsley and Heavey

Read first time 01/25/1999. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to arrest without a warrant; and amending RCW  
2 10.31.100.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 10.31.100 and 1997 c 66 s 10 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            A police officer having probable cause to believe that a person has  
7 committed or is committing a felony shall have the authority to arrest  
8 the person without a warrant. A police officer may arrest a person  
9 without a warrant for committing a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor  
10 only when the offense is committed in the presence of the officer,  
11 except as provided in subsections (1) through (10) of this section.

12            (1) Any police officer having probable cause to believe that a  
13 person has committed or is committing a misdemeanor or gross  
14 misdemeanor, involving physical harm or threats of harm to any person  
15 or property or the unlawful taking of property or involving the use or  
16 possession of cannabis, or involving the acquisition, possession, or  
17 consumption of alcohol by a person under the age of twenty-one years  
18 under RCW 66.44.270, or involving criminal trespass under RCW 9A.52.070  
19 or 9A.52.080, shall have the authority to arrest the person.

1 (2) A police officer shall arrest and take into custody, pending  
2 release on bail, personal recognizance, or court order, a person  
3 without a warrant when the officer has probable cause to believe that:

4 (a) An order has been issued of which the person has knowledge  
5 under RCW 10.99.040(2), 10.99.050, 26.09.050, 26.09.060, 26.10.040,  
6 26.10.115, 26.44.063, chapter 26.26 RCW, or chapter 26.50 RCW  
7 restraining the person and the person has violated the terms of the  
8 order restraining the person from acts or threats of violence or  
9 restraining the person from going onto the grounds of or entering a  
10 residence, workplace, school, or day care or, in the case of an order  
11 issued under RCW 26.44.063, imposing any other restrictions or  
12 conditions upon the person; or

13 (b) The person is sixteen years or older and within the preceding  
14 four hours has assaulted a family or household member as defined in RCW  
15 10.99.020 and the officer believes: (i) A felonious assault has  
16 occurred; (ii) an assault has occurred which has resulted in bodily  
17 injury to the victim, whether the injury is observable by the  
18 responding officer or not; or (iii) that any physical action has  
19 occurred which was intended to cause another person reasonably to fear  
20 imminent serious bodily injury or death. Bodily injury means physical  
21 pain, illness, or an impairment of physical condition. When the  
22 officer has probable cause to believe that family or household members  
23 have assaulted each other, the officer is not required to arrest both  
24 persons. The officer shall arrest the person whom the officer believes  
25 to be the primary physical aggressor. In making this determination,  
26 the officer shall make every reasonable effort to consider: (i) The  
27 intent to protect victims of domestic violence under RCW 10.99.010;  
28 (ii) the comparative extent of injuries inflicted or serious threats  
29 creating fear of physical injury; and (iii) the history of domestic  
30 violence between the persons involved.

31 (3) Any police officer having probable cause to believe that a  
32 person has committed or is committing a violation of any of the  
33 following traffic laws shall have the authority to arrest the person:

34 (a) RCW 46.52.010, relating to duty on striking an unattended car  
35 or other property;

36 (b) RCW 46.52.020, relating to duty in case of injury to or death  
37 of a person or damage to an attended vehicle;

38 (c) RCW 46.61.500 or 46.61.530, relating to reckless driving or  
39 racing of vehicles;

1 (d) RCW 46.61.502 or 46.61.504, relating to persons under the  
2 influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs;

3 (e) RCW 46.20.342, relating to driving a motor vehicle while  
4 operator's license is suspended or revoked;

5 (f) RCW 46.61.5249, relating to operating a motor vehicle in a  
6 negligent manner.

7 (4) ((A)) Any law enforcement officer investigating ((at the scene  
8 of)) a motor vehicle accident may arrest the driver of a motor vehicle  
9 involved in the accident if the officer has probable cause to believe  
10 that the driver has committed in connection with the accident a  
11 violation of any criminal traffic law or regulation.

12 (5) Any police officer having probable cause to believe that a  
13 person has committed or is committing a violation of RCW 88.12.025  
14 shall have the authority to arrest the person.

15 (6) An officer may act upon the request of a law enforcement  
16 officer in whose presence a traffic infraction was committed, to stop,  
17 detain, arrest, or issue a notice of traffic infraction to the driver  
18 who is believed to have committed the infraction. The request by the  
19 witnessing officer shall give an officer the authority to take  
20 appropriate action under the laws of the state of Washington.

21 (7) Any police officer having probable cause to believe that a  
22 person has committed or is committing any act of indecent exposure, as  
23 defined in RCW 9A.88.010, may arrest the person.

24 (8) A police officer may arrest and take into custody, pending  
25 release on bail, personal recognizance, or court order, a person  
26 without a warrant when the officer has probable cause to believe that  
27 an order has been issued of which the person has knowledge under  
28 chapter 10.14 RCW and the person has violated the terms of that order.

29 (9) Any police officer having probable cause to believe that a  
30 person has, within twenty-four hours of the alleged violation,  
31 committed a violation of RCW 9A.50.020 may arrest such person.

32 (10) A police officer having probable cause to believe that a  
33 person illegally possesses or illegally has possessed a firearm or  
34 other dangerous weapon on private or public elementary or secondary  
35 school premises shall have the authority to arrest the person.

36 For purposes of this subsection, the term "firearm" has the meaning  
37 defined in RCW 9.41.010 and the term "dangerous weapon" has the meaning  
38 defined in RCW 9.41.250 and 9.41.280(1) (c) through (e).

1       (11) Except as specifically provided in subsections (2), (3), (4),  
2 and (6) of this section, nothing in this section extends or otherwise  
3 affects the powers of arrest prescribed in Title 46 RCW.

4       (12) No police officer may be held criminally or civilly liable for  
5 making an arrest pursuant to RCW 10.31.100 (2) or (8) if the police  
6 officer acts in good faith and without malice.

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