
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1820

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Law (originally sponsored by Representatives Pettigrew, Kagi, Santos and Kenney)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to the provision of shelter to a minor; amending
2 RCW 13.32A.082; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that youth shelters
5 provide safety to youth on the streets and are the main pathway to
6 getting youth off of the streets, putting them in contact with
7 individuals who will help them reconnect with their families, and
8 connecting them to services and programs that will help them stay off
9 of the streets. In order to effectively serve youth on the streets,
10 shelters must be able to establish and maintain an environment that
11 facilitates open communication and trust. If shelters are required to
12 notify a youth's parents, law enforcement, or the department of social
13 and health services of the location of the youth, before the staff of
14 the shelter have the opportunity to examine the youth's situation and
15 the youth's reasons for being on the streets, youth will choose to
16 remain on the streets rather than seek the services of youth shelters.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.32A.082 and 2000 c 123 s 10 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

1 (1)(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any
2 person who, without legal authorization, provides shelter to a minor
3 and who knows at the time of providing the shelter that the minor is
4 away from the parent's home without the permission of the parent, or
5 other lawfully prescribed residence, shall promptly report the location
6 of the child to the parent, the law enforcement agency of the
7 jurisdiction in which the person lives, or the department. ((The
8 report may be made by telephone or any other reasonable means.))

9 (b)(i) A professional, or his or her designee, employed by a
10 licensed overnight youth shelter or organization whose stated mission
11 is to provide services to homeless or runaway youth and their families,
12 who, without legal authorization, provides shelter to a minor and knows
13 at the time of providing shelter that the minor is away from a lawfully
14 prescribed residence or home without the parent's permission, shall
15 report to the department the name of the minor and the fact that the
16 minor has made contact with the shelter or organization. The report
17 under this subsection (1)(b) must be made to the department within
18 twenty-four hours after the shelter or organization has actual
19 knowledge that the minor is away from a lawfully prescribed residence
20 or home without parental permission.

21 (ii) If the professional, or his or her designee, indicates to the
22 department that he or she is making the report pursuant to this
23 subsection (1)(b), the department shall not release information
24 regarding the location of the child or the identity of the shelter,
25 organization, or professional or the professional's designee for forty-
26 eight hours from the time the department receives the report.

27 (c) Reports required under this section may be made by telephone or
28 any other reasonable means.

29 (2) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions
30 in this subsection apply throughout this section.

31 (a) "Shelter" means the person's home or any structure over which
32 the person has any control.

33 (b) "Promptly report" means to report within eight hours after the
34 person has knowledge that the minor is away from a lawfully prescribed
35 residence or home without parental permission.

36 (3) When the department receives a report under subsection (1) of
37 this section, it shall make a good faith attempt to immediately notify

1 the parent that a report has been received and offer services designed
2 to resolve the conflict and accomplish a reunification of the family.

3 (4) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b)(ii) of this section,
4 nothing in this section prohibits any person from immediately reporting
5 the identity and location of any minor who is away from a lawfully
6 prescribed residence or home without parental permission more promptly
7 than required under this section.

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