
HOUSE BILL 1820

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Pettigrew, Kagi, Santos and Kenney

Read first time 02/11/2003. Referred to Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Law.

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

9 (b) A professional employed by a licensed overnight youth shelter
10 or an organization, whose stated mission is to provide services to
11 homeless or runaway youth and their families, who, without legal
12 authorization, provides shelter to a minor and knows at the time of
13 providing the shelter that the minor is away from the parent's home
14 without the permission of the parent, or other lawfully prescribed
15 residence, shall report the location of the child to the parent, the
16 law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction in which the person lives,
17 or the department within seventy-two hours after the program supervisor
18 has knowledge that the minor is away from a lawfully prescribed
19 residence or home without parental permission. The report may be made
20 by telephone or any other reasonable means.

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

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

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

28 (3) When the department receives a report under subsection (1) of
29 this section, it shall make a good faith attempt to notify the parent
30 that a report has been received and offer services designed to resolve
31 the conflict and accomplish a reunification of the family.

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