
SENATE BILL 5973

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/26/2003. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to registration of athletic officials; and adding
2 a new chapter to Title 18 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that athletic events
5 in which children participate have become increasingly competitive.
6 The legislature finds that officials with appropriate training can
7 create a safer environment where children can learn the principles of
8 fair play. The legislature finds that establishing minimum standards
9 for officials in athletic events involving children under the age of
10 eighteen promotes the safety and health of the children participating
11 in athletic games and competitions, the people watching the event, and
12 the officials enforcing the rules.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
14 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

15 (1) "Department" means the department of licensing.

16 (2) "Director" means the director of licensing.

17 (3) "Official" means the person determining whether or not the

1 rules of the athletic event are being followed by the participants in
2 athletic events.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A person shall not practice or represent
4 himself or herself as an official in an athletic event where children
5 under the age of eighteen participate unless the person is registered
6 under this chapter.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In addition to any other authority provided
8 by law, the director may:

9 (1) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW necessary to implement this
10 chapter;

11 (2) Establish registration and renewal fees that may be established
12 at a level to support the administration of the program under this
13 chapter;

14 (3) Establish forms and procedures necessary to administer this
15 chapter;

16 (4) Register any applicants who have met the requirements for
17 registration and deny registration to applicants who do not meet the
18 requirements of this chapter;

19 (5) Establish training criteria for each sport, establish criteria
20 for approved training programs, which shall include but not be limited
21 to the rules of the sport and conflict management, and develop
22 assessments as needed;

23 (6) Hire clerical, administrative investigative, and other staff as
24 needed to implement this chapter, and contract with a voluntary
25 nonprofit entity regulating the conduct of athletic or recreational
26 events; and

27 (7) Maintain the official department record of all applicants and
28 persons registered under this chapter.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The director shall keep an official record
30 of all proceedings. A part of the record shall consist of a register
31 of all applicants for registration under this chapter and the results
32 of each application.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Applicants for registration shall submit the
34 appropriate fee and a completed criminal history background check with

1 their applications. The applicant shall designate the specific sports
2 at which the official wants to officiate and demonstrate that the
3 applicant has taken the appropriate training for that sport.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The director shall establish by rule the
5 procedural requirements and fees for renewal of a registration. At a
6 minimum, the director shall require a background check once every three
7 years and annual attendance at training for specific sports and annual
8 passage of approved tests in the appropriate sport.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act constitute
10 a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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