
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2752

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Children's Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Dickerson, Orwall, Walsh, Goodman, Kagi, Roberts, Pedersen, Green, Santos, and Nelson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to the safety of runaway youth; amending RCW
2 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 services
5 provide safety to youth on the streets and are a critical pathway to
6 ensuring the youth's return home. Runaway youth are without
7 protection, live under the threat of violence, and fall victim to
8 predators who exploit their vulnerability. The policy of this state is
9 to provide assistance to youth in crisis and to protect and preserve
10 families. In order to effectively serve youth on the streets and
11 promote their safe return home, shelters must have the time to
12 establish and maintain an environment that facilitates open
13 communication and trust.

14 The legislature also finds that parents of runaway youth have an
15 interest in knowing their sons and daughters are safe in a shelter,
16 rather than on the streets without protection. The legislature further
17 finds that law enforcement and the department can notify a parent that
18 the youth is safe, without disclosing the youth's location or

1 compromising the ability of youth services providers to effectively
2 assist youth in crisis.

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

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

12 (b) If a licensed overnight youth shelter, or an organization whose
13 stated mission is to provide services to homeless or runaway youth and
14 their families, provides shelter to a minor and knows at the time of
15 providing the shelter that the minor is away from a lawfully prescribed
16 residence or home without parental permission, it shall:

17 (i) Within eight hours, notify the department or the law
18 enforcement agency of the jurisdiction in which the youth lives.
19 Notice under this subsection (1)(b)(i) is for the limited purpose of
20 communicating that the youth currently is safe and is off the streets,
21 and shall not disclose the whereabouts of the youth, or the
22 circumstances surrounding the youth's contact with the shelter or
23 organization unless shelter staff have already provided such
24 information to the youth's parent under (b)(ii) of this subsection; and

25 (ii) Within not more than seventy-two hours, and preferably within
26 twenty-four hours, notify the parent of the youth. Notice under this
27 subsection (1)(b)(ii) should include the whereabouts of the youth, a
28 description of the youth's physical and emotional condition, and the
29 circumstances surrounding the youth's contact with the shelter or
30 organization. If there are compelling reasons not to notify the
31 parent, the shelter or organization shall instead provide the
32 information to the department.

33 (c) When a local law enforcement agency or the department receives
34 notice under (b)(i) of this subsection, the agency or the department
35 shall make a good faith effort to notify the youth's parent that the
36 youth is currently safe and off the streets, but shall not disclose the
37 whereabouts of the youth, if known to the agency or department.

1 (d) Reports required under this section may be made by telephone or
2 any other reasonable means.

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

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

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

10 (c) "Compelling reasons" include, but are not limited to,
11 circumstances that indicate that notifying the parent or legal guardian
12 will subject the child to abuse or neglect as defined in chapter 26.44
13 RCW.

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

18 (4) Nothing in this section prohibits any person from immediately
19 reporting the identity and location of any minor who is away from a
20 lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental permission more
21 promptly than required under this section.

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