
SENATE BILL 5484

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

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By Senators Kline, Frockt, Ranker, Rolfes, Padden, Fain, and Kohl-Welles; by request of Attorney General

Read first time 01/31/13. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to assault in the third degree occurring in areas
2 used in connection with court proceedings; amending RCW 9.94A.535;
3 reenacting and amending RCW 9A.36.031; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9A.36.031 and 2011 c 336 s 359 and 2011 c 238 s 1 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1) A person is guilty of assault in the third degree if he or she,
8 under circumstances not amounting to assault in the first or second
9 degree:

10 (a) With intent to prevent or resist the execution of any lawful
11 process or mandate of any court officer or the lawful apprehension or
12 detention of himself, herself, or another person, assaults another; or

13 (b) Assaults a person employed as a transit operator or driver, the
14 immediate supervisor of a transit operator or driver, a mechanic, or a
15 security officer, by a public or private transit company or a
16 contracted transit service provider, while that person is performing
17 his or her official duties at the time of the assault; or

18 (c) Assaults a school bus driver, the immediate supervisor of a
19 driver, a mechanic, or a security officer, employed by a school

1 district transportation service or a private company under contract for
2 transportation services with a school district, while the person is
3 performing his or her official duties at the time of the assault; or

4 (d) With criminal negligence, causes bodily harm to another person
5 by means of a weapon or other instrument or thing likely to produce
6 bodily harm; or

7 (e) Assaults a firefighter or other employee of a fire department,
8 county fire marshal's office, county fire prevention bureau, or fire
9 protection district who was performing his or her official duties at
10 the time of the assault; or

11 (f) With criminal negligence, causes bodily harm accompanied by
12 substantial pain that extends for a period sufficient to cause
13 considerable suffering; or

14 (g) Assaults a law enforcement officer or other employee of a law
15 enforcement agency who was performing his or her official duties at the
16 time of the assault; or

17 (h) Assaults a peace officer with a projectile stun gun; or

18 (i) Assaults a nurse, physician, or health care provider who was
19 performing his or her nursing or health care duties at the time of the
20 assault. For purposes of this subsection: "Nurse" means a person
21 licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW; "physician" means a person licensed
22 under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW; and "health care provider" means a
23 person certified under chapter 18.71 or 18.73 RCW who performs
24 emergency medical services or a person regulated under Title 18 RCW and
25 employed by, or contracting with, a hospital licensed under chapter
26 70.41 RCW; or

27 (j) Assaults a judicial officer, court-related employee, county
28 clerk, or county clerk's employee, while that person is performing his
29 or her official duties at the time of the assault or as a result of
30 that person's employment within the judicial system. For purposes of
31 this subsection, "court-related employee" includes bailiffs, court
32 reporters, judicial assistants, court managers, court managers'
33 employees, and any other employee, regardless of title, who is engaged
34 in equivalent functions; or

35 (k) Assaults a person located in any area of a building that is
36 used in connection with court proceedings, including courtrooms, jury
37 rooms, judge's chambers, offices, and areas used to conduct court
38 business, waiting areas, and corridors adjacent to areas used in

1 connection with court proceedings. The covered areas also include
2 common areas of ingress and egress to the building that is used in
3 connection with court proceedings.

4 (2) Assault in the third degree is a class C felony.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9.94A.535 and 2011 c 87 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The court may impose a sentence outside the standard sentence range
8 for an offense if it finds, considering the purpose of this chapter,
9 that there are substantial and compelling reasons justifying an
10 exceptional sentence. Facts supporting aggravated sentences, other
11 than the fact of a prior conviction, shall be determined pursuant to
12 the provisions of RCW 9.94A.537.

13 Whenever a sentence outside the standard sentence range is imposed,
14 the court shall set forth the reasons for its decision in written
15 findings of fact and conclusions of law. A sentence outside the
16 standard sentence range shall be a determinate sentence.

17 If the sentencing court finds that an exceptional sentence outside
18 the standard sentence range should be imposed, the sentence is subject
19 to review only as provided for in RCW 9.94A.585(4).

20 A departure from the standards in RCW 9.94A.589 (1) and (2)
21 governing whether sentences are to be served consecutively or
22 concurrently is an exceptional sentence subject to the limitations in
23 this section, and may be appealed by the offender or the state as set
24 forth in RCW 9.94A.585 (2) through (6).

25 (1) Mitigating Circumstances - Court to Consider

26 The court may impose an exceptional sentence below the standard
27 range if it finds that mitigating circumstances are established by a
28 preponderance of the evidence. The following are illustrative only and
29 are not intended to be exclusive reasons for exceptional sentences.

30 (a) To a significant degree, the victim was an initiator, willing
31 participant, aggressor, or provoker of the incident.

32 (b) Before detection, the defendant compensated, or made a good
33 faith effort to compensate, the victim of the criminal conduct for any
34 damage or injury sustained.

35 (c) The defendant committed the crime under duress, coercion,
36 threat, or compulsion insufficient to constitute a complete defense but
37 which significantly affected his or her conduct.

1 (d) The defendant, with no apparent predisposition to do so, was
2 induced by others to participate in the crime.

3 (e) The defendant's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of his
4 or her conduct, or to conform his or her conduct to the requirements of
5 the law, was significantly impaired. Voluntary use of drugs or alcohol
6 is excluded.

7 (f) The offense was principally accomplished by another person and
8 the defendant manifested extreme caution or sincere concern for the
9 safety or well-being of the victim.

10 (g) The operation of the multiple offense policy of RCW 9.94A.589
11 results in a presumptive sentence that is clearly excessive in light of
12 the purpose of this chapter, as expressed in RCW 9.94A.010.

13 (h) The defendant or the defendant's children suffered a continuing
14 pattern of physical or sexual abuse by the victim of the offense and
15 the offense is a response to that abuse.

16 (i) The defendant was making a good faith effort to obtain or
17 provide medical assistance for someone who is experiencing a drug-
18 related overdose.

19 (j) The current offense involved domestic violence, as defined in
20 RCW 10.99.020, and the defendant suffered a continuing pattern of
21 coercion, control, or abuse by the victim of the offense and the
22 offense is a response to that coercion, control, or abuse.

23 (2) Aggravating Circumstances - Considered and Imposed by the Court
24 The trial court may impose an aggravated exceptional sentence
25 without a finding of fact by a jury under the following circumstances:

26 (a) The defendant and the state both stipulate that justice is best
27 served by the imposition of an exceptional sentence outside the
28 standard range, and the court finds the exceptional sentence to be
29 consistent with and in furtherance of the interests of justice and the
30 purposes of the sentencing reform act.

31 (b) The defendant's prior unscored misdemeanor or prior unscored
32 foreign criminal history results in a presumptive sentence that is
33 clearly too lenient in light of the purpose of this chapter, as
34 expressed in RCW 9.94A.010.

35 (c) The defendant has committed multiple current offenses and the
36 defendant's high offender score results in some of the current offenses
37 going unpunished.

1 (d) The failure to consider the defendant's prior criminal history
2 which was omitted from the offender score calculation pursuant to RCW
3 9.94A.525 results in a presumptive sentence that is clearly too
4 lenient.

5 (3) Aggravating Circumstances - Considered by a Jury -Imposed by
6 the Court

7 Except for circumstances listed in subsection (2) of this section,
8 the following circumstances are an exclusive list of factors that can
9 support a sentence above the standard range. Such facts should be
10 determined by procedures specified in RCW 9.94A.537.

11 (a) The defendant's conduct during the commission of the current
12 offense manifested deliberate cruelty to the victim.

13 (b) The defendant knew or should have known that the victim of the
14 current offense was particularly vulnerable or incapable of resistance.

15 (c) The current offense was a violent offense, and the defendant
16 knew that the victim of the current offense was pregnant.

17 (d) The current offense was a major economic offense or series of
18 offenses, so identified by a consideration of any of the following
19 factors:

20 (i) The current offense involved multiple victims or multiple
21 incidents per victim;

22 (ii) The current offense involved attempted or actual monetary loss
23 substantially greater than typical for the offense;

24 (iii) The current offense involved a high degree of sophistication
25 or planning or occurred over a lengthy period of time; or

26 (iv) The defendant used his or her position of trust, confidence,
27 or fiduciary responsibility to facilitate the commission of the current
28 offense.

29 (e) The current offense was a major violation of the Uniform
30 Controlled Substances Act, chapter 69.50 RCW (VUCSA), related to
31 trafficking in controlled substances, which was more onerous than the
32 typical offense of its statutory definition: The presence of ANY of
33 the following may identify a current offense as a major VUCSA:

34 (i) The current offense involved at least three separate
35 transactions in which controlled substances were sold, transferred, or
36 possessed with intent to do so;

37 (ii) The current offense involved an attempted or actual sale or

1 transfer of controlled substances in quantities substantially larger
2 than for personal use;

3 (iii) The current offense involved the manufacture of controlled
4 substances for use by other parties;

5 (iv) The circumstances of the current offense reveal the offender
6 to have occupied a high position in the drug distribution hierarchy;

7 (v) The current offense involved a high degree of sophistication or
8 planning, occurred over a lengthy period of time, or involved a broad
9 geographic area of disbursement; or

10 (vi) The offender used his or her position or status to facilitate
11 the commission of the current offense, including positions of trust,
12 confidence or fiduciary responsibility (e.g., pharmacist, physician, or
13 other medical professional).

14 (f) The current offense included a finding of sexual motivation
15 pursuant to RCW 9.94A.835.

16 (g) The offense was part of an ongoing pattern of sexual abuse of
17 the same victim under the age of eighteen years manifested by multiple
18 incidents over a prolonged period of time.

19 (h) The current offense involved domestic violence, as defined in
20 RCW 10.99.020, and one or more of the following was present:

21 (i) The offense was part of an ongoing pattern of psychological,
22 physical, or sexual abuse of a victim or multiple victims manifested by
23 multiple incidents over a prolonged period of time;

24 (ii) The offense occurred within sight or sound of the victim's or
25 the offender's minor children under the age of eighteen years; or

26 (iii) The offender's conduct during the commission of the current
27 offense manifested deliberate cruelty or intimidation of the victim.

28 (i) The offense resulted in the pregnancy of a child victim of
29 rape.

30 (j) The defendant knew that the victim of the current offense was
31 a youth who was not residing with a legal custodian and the defendant
32 established or promoted the relationship for the primary purpose of
33 victimization.

34 (k) The offense was committed with the intent to obstruct or impair
35 human or animal health care or agricultural or forestry research or
36 commercial production.

37 (l) The current offense is trafficking in the first degree or

1 trafficking in the second degree and any victim was a minor at the time
2 of the offense.

3 (m) The offense involved a high degree of sophistication or
4 planning.

5 (n) The defendant used his or her position of trust, confidence, or
6 fiduciary responsibility to facilitate the commission of the current
7 offense.

8 (o) The defendant committed a current sex offense, has a history of
9 sex offenses, and is not amenable to treatment.

10 (p) The offense involved an invasion of the victim's privacy.

11 (q) The defendant demonstrated or displayed an egregious lack of
12 remorse.

13 (r) The offense involved a destructive and foreseeable impact on
14 persons other than the victim.

15 (s) The defendant committed the offense to obtain or maintain his
16 or her membership or to advance his or her position in the hierarchy of
17 an organization, association, or identifiable group.

18 (t) The defendant committed the current offense shortly after being
19 released from incarceration.

20 (u) The current offense is a burglary and the victim of the
21 burglary was present in the building or residence when the crime was
22 committed.

23 (v) The offense was committed against a law enforcement officer who
24 was performing his or her official duties at the time of the offense,
25 the offender knew that the victim was a law enforcement officer, and
26 the victim's status as a law enforcement officer is not an element of
27 the offense.

28 (w) The defendant committed the offense against a victim who was
29 acting as a good samaritan.

30 (x) The defendant committed the offense against a public official
31 or officer of the court in retaliation of the public official's
32 performance of his or her duty to the criminal justice system.

33 (y) The victim's injuries substantially exceed the level of bodily
34 harm necessary to satisfy the elements of the offense. This aggravator
35 is not an exception to RCW 9.94A.530(2).

36 (z)(i)(A) The current offense is theft in the first degree, theft
37 in the second degree, possession of stolen property in the first
38 degree, or possession of stolen property in the second degree; (B) the

1 stolen property involved is metal property; and (C) the property damage
2 to the victim caused in the course of the theft of metal property is
3 more than three times the value of the stolen metal property, or the
4 theft of the metal property creates a public hazard.

5 (ii) For purposes of this subsection, "metal property" means
6 commercial metal property, private metal property, or nonferrous metal
7 property, as defined in RCW 19.290.010.

8 (aa) The defendant committed the offense with the intent to
9 directly or indirectly cause any benefit, aggrandizement, gain, profit,
10 or other advantage to or for a criminal street gang as defined in RCW
11 9.94A.030, its reputation, influence, or membership.

12 (bb) The current offense involved paying to view, over the internet
13 in violation of RCW 9.68A.075, depictions of a minor engaged in an act
14 of sexually explicit conduct as defined in RCW 9.68A.011(4) (a) through
15 (g).

16 (cc) The offense was intentionally committed because the defendant
17 perceived the victim to be homeless, as defined in RCW 9.94A.030.

18 (dd) The current offense involved a felony crime against persons,
19 except for assault in the third degree pursuant to RCW 9A.36.031(1) (j)
20 or (k), that occurs in those areas in any building that are used in
21 connection with court proceedings, including courtrooms, jury rooms,
22 judge's chambers, offices, and areas used to conduct court business,
23 waiting areas, and corridors adjacent to areas used in connection with
24 court proceedings. The covered areas also include common areas of
25 ingress and egress to the building that is used in connection with
26 court proceedings.

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