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**HOUSE BILL 2823**

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**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Parker, Riccelli, Manweller, and Bergquist

AN ACT Relating to creating a program to provide students and the community with the means to report anonymously concerning unsafe or violent activities, or the threat of these activities; reenacting and amending RCW 42.56.240; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature finds that violence in schools is a serious concern. The legislature intends to limit violence in schools by providing students and the community with a mechanism to report anonymously information about potentially dangerous situations.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 28A.300 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The students protecting students program is established within the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The primary purpose of the program is to provide students and the community with the means to relay information anonymously concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities, or the threat of these activities, to school officials or, if necessary, appropriate law enforcement or public safety agencies.

(2) The students protecting students program must:

(a) Establish and maintain methods of anonymous reporting concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities, or the threat of these activities, where reporting can be accomplished by, at a minimum, phone, text message, and email;

(b) Establish methods and procedures to ensure that the identity of the reporting party remains unknown to persons and entities, including employees or persons operating the program, law enforcement officers, public safety officers, and school officials;

(c) Establish methods and procedures so that information obtained from a reporting party who voluntarily discloses his or her identity and verifies that he or she is willing to be identified may be shared with employees or persons operating the program, law enforcement officers, public safety officers, and school officials;

(d) Establish methods and procedures to ensure that the identity of a reporting party who becomes known through any means other than voluntary disclosure is not further disclosed; and

(e) Promptly forward information received by the program to the relevant building principal, or alternate school official. However, if the information received is deemed to be immediately actionable, then also forward the information to the appropriate local law enforcement officers and public safety officers.

(3)(a) The students protecting students program and employees or persons operating the program must not be compelled to produce any material except on the motion of a criminal defendant to the court in which the offense is being tried, supported by an affidavit establishing that the material contains impeachment evidence or evidence that is exculpatory to the defendant in the trial of that offense.

(b) If the defendant's motion is granted, the court shall conduct an ex parte in camera review of material produced under the defendant's subpoena.

(c) If the court determines that the produced material contains impeachment evidence or evidence that is exculpatory to the defendant, the court shall order the material be produced to the defendant pursuant to a protective order that includes the redaction of the reporting party's identity and limitations on the use of the material, as needed, unless contrary to state or federal law. Material excised pursuant to a judicial order following the in camera review must be sealed and preserved in the records of the court, to be made available to the appellate court in the event of an appeal. After the time for appeal has expired, the court must return the material to the students protecting students program.

(4)(a) Material created or obtained through the implementation or operation of the students protecting students program is confidential and must not be disclosed. The students protecting students program and employees or persons operating the program may be compelled to produce material only before a court or other tribunal and only pursuant to court order for an in camera review. An in camera review must be limited to an inspection of material that is material to the specific case pending before the court. The attorney general acting on behalf of the students protecting students program has standing in an action to oppose the disclosure of material in the custody of the program.

(b) A person who knowingly discloses material in violation of the provisions of this section commits a misdemeanor punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "In camera" means a confidential review by the judge alone in his or her chambers.

(b) "Material" means a record, report, claim, writing, document, information anonymously reported, or information related to the source of the material.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 28A.320 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Every school year, beginning in the 2016-17 school year, there must be made available to all students in each common school as defined in RCW 28A.150.020 at least one age-appropriate educational program, class, or activity designed to teach students about the students protecting students program established in section 2 of this act. Such a program, class, or activity must include information about how to report anonymously concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities, or the threat of these activities, to appropriate law enforcement agencies, public safety agencies, and school officials.

(2) Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, schools and school districts must disseminate information about the students protecting students program established in section 2 of this act, including the contact information for anonymous reporting, through any normal means of existing communication to students and families.

**Sec.**  RCW 42.56.240 and 2015 c 224 s 3 and 2015 c 91 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

The following investigative, law enforcement, and crime victim information is exempt from public inspection and copying under this chapter:

(1) Specific intelligence information and specific investigative records compiled by investigative, law enforcement, and penology agencies, and state agencies vested with the responsibility to discipline members of any profession, the nondisclosure of which is essential to effective law enforcement or for the protection of any person's right to privacy;

(2) Information revealing the identity of persons who are witnesses to or victims of crime or who file complaints with investigative, law enforcement, or penology agencies, other than the commission, if disclosure would endanger any person's life, physical safety, or property. If at the time a complaint is filed the complainant, victim, or witness indicates a desire for disclosure or nondisclosure, such desire shall govern. However, all complaints filed with the commission about any elected official or candidate for public office must be made in writing and signed by the complainant under oath;

(3) Any records of investigative reports prepared by any state, county, municipal, or other law enforcement agency pertaining to sex offenses contained in chapter 9A.44 RCW or sexually violent offenses as defined in RCW 71.09.020, which have been transferred to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs for permanent electronic retention and retrieval pursuant to RCW 40.14.070(2)(b);

(4) License applications under RCW 9.41.070; copies of license applications or information on the applications may be released to law enforcement or corrections agencies;

(5) Information revealing the identity of child victims of sexual assault who are under age eighteen. Identifying information means the child victim's name, address, location, photograph, and in cases in which the child victim is a relative or stepchild of the alleged perpetrator, identification of the relationship between the child and the alleged perpetrator;

(6) Information contained in a local or regionally maintained gang database as well as the statewide gang database referenced in RCW 43.43.762;

(7) Data from the electronic sales tracking system established in RCW 69.43.165;

(8) Information submitted to the statewide unified sex offender notification and registration program under RCW 36.28A.040(6) by a person for the purpose of receiving notification regarding a registered sex offender, including the person's name, residential address, and email address;

(9) Personally identifying information collected by law enforcement agencies pursuant to local security alarm system programs and vacation crime watch programs. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted so as to prohibit the legal owner of a residence or business from accessing information regarding his or her residence or business;

(10) The felony firearm offense conviction database of felony firearm offenders established in RCW 43.43.822;

(11) The identity of a state employee or officer who has in good faith filed a complaint with an ethics board, as provided in RCW 42.52.410, or who has in good faith reported improper governmental action, as defined in RCW 42.40.020, to the auditor or other public official, as defined in RCW 42.40.020;

(12) The following security threat group information collected and maintained by the department of corrections pursuant to RCW 72.09.745: (a) Information that could lead to the identification of a person's security threat group status, affiliation, or activities; (b) information that reveals specific security threats associated with the operation and activities of security threat groups; and (c) information that identifies the number of security threat group members, affiliates, or associates; ((~~and~~))

(13) The global positioning system data that would indicate the location of the residence of an employee or worker of a criminal justice agency as defined in RCW 10.97.030; and

(14) Material, as defined in section 2 of this act, received, made, or kept by, or received from, the students protecting students program established in section 2 of this act, that is confidential under section 2(4) of this act.

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