
Public Safety Committee

SSB 5072

Brief Description: Modifying the crime of failing to summon assistance.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senator Honeyford).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Expands the crime of Failing to Summon Assistance to include circumstances where a person fails to summon assistance for another person who is injured other than as a result of a crime.

Hearing Date: 3/13/15

Staff: Cassie Jones (786-7303).

Background:

A person commits the crime of Failing to Summon Assistance if:

- he or she was present when a crime was committed against another person;
- he or she knows that the other person has suffered substantial bodily harm as a result of the crime committed against the other person and that the other person is in need of assistance;
- he or she could reasonably summon assistance for the person in need without danger to himself or herself and without interference with an important duty owed to a third party;
- he or she fails to summon assistance for the person in need; and
- another person is not summoning or has not summoned assistance for the person in need of such assistance.

"Substantial bodily harm" means bodily injury that involves a temporary but substantial disfigurement, or causes a temporary but substantial loss of the function of any bodily part or organ, or that causes a fracture of any bodily part.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Failing to summon assistance is a misdemeanor. Misdemeanors are punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Summary of Bill:

A person commits the crime of failing to summon assistance if:

- he or she was present at the time when a crime was committed or another person was injured;
- he or she knows that the other person has suffered substantial bodily harm and that the other person is in need of assistance;
- he or she could reasonably summon assistance for the person in need without danger to himself or herself and without interference with an important duty owed to a third party;
- he or she fails to summon assistance for the person in need; and
- another person is not summoning or has not summoned assistance for the person in need of such assistance.

Failing to summon assistance remains a misdemeanor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.