
HOUSE BILL 2061

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Sells, Caldier, and Ormsby

Read first time 02/09/17. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to excluding holidays and weekends from the time
2 period required for youth shelters to notify parents; and amending
3 RCW 13.32A.082.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.32A.082 and 2013 c 4 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any person,
8 unlicensed youth shelter, or runaway and homeless youth program that,
9 without legal authorization, provides shelter to a minor and that
10 knows at the time of providing the shelter that the minor is away
11 from a lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental
12 permission, shall promptly report the location of the child to the
13 parent, the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction in which the
14 person lives, or the department.

15 (b)(i) If a licensed overnight youth shelter, or another licensed
16 organization with a stated mission to provide services to homeless or
17 runaway youth and their families, shelters a child and knows at the
18 time of providing the shelter that the child is away from a lawfully
19 prescribed residence or home without parental permission, it must
20 contact the youth's parent within seventy-two hours, not including
21 weekends and holidays, but preferably within twenty-four hours,

1 following the time that the youth is admitted to the shelter or other
2 licensed organization's program. The notification must include the
3 whereabouts of the youth, a description of the youth's physical and
4 emotional condition, and the circumstances surrounding the youth's
5 contact with the shelter or organization. If there are compelling
6 reasons not to notify the parent, the shelter or organization must
7 instead notify the department.

8 (ii) At least once every eight hours after learning that a youth
9 receiving services or shelter under this section is away from home
10 without permission, the shelter or organization staff must consult
11 the information that the Washington state patrol makes publicly
12 available under RCW 43.43.510(2). If the youth is publicly listed as
13 missing, the shelter or organization must immediately notify the
14 department of its contact with the youth listed as missing. The
15 notification must include a description of the minor's physical and
16 emotional condition and the circumstances surrounding the youth's
17 contact with the shelter or organization.

18 (c) Reports required under this section may be made by telephone
19 or any other reasonable means.

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

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

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

27 (c) "Compelling reasons" include, but are not limited to,
28 circumstances that indicate that notifying the parent or legal
29 guardian will subject the minor to abuse or neglect as defined in RCW
30 26.44.020.

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

35 (4) Nothing in this section prohibits any person, unlicensed
36 youth shelter, or runaway and homeless youth program from immediately
37 reporting the identity and location of any minor who is away from a

1 lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental permission
2 more promptly than required under this section.

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