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HOUSE BILL 2783

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2018 Regular Session

By Representatives McDonald, Irwin, and Van Werven

Read first time 01/16/18. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to protecting public safety by authorizing  
2 certain educational institutions to impose reasonable restrictions on  
3 registered sex and kidnapping offenders enrolled at those  
4 institutions; adding a new section to chapter 9A.44 RCW; and creating  
5 a new section.

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

7            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature is committed to protecting  
8 the safety and well-being of the public from sex offenders. The  
9 Washington state community protection act, requiring the registration  
10 of sex and kidnapping offenders, is a critical component of a larger  
11 system designed to protect the public while reducing recidivism. The  
12 legislature finds that the current registration classification  
13 system, which is based on risk rather than type of offense, should be  
14 utilized by certain educational institutions as a basis for  
15 evaluating whether to impose reasonable restrictions on students  
16 classified as high risk to reoffend. The legislature intends for  
17 restrictions to protect the safety and well-being of personnel and  
18 students, especially minors. Restrictions are not intended to be  
19 punitive, but instead to accommodate the registered student's access  
20 to education without risking the safety and well-being of others.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 9A.44  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) When a community or technical college receives notice under  
4    RCW 9A.44.138 regarding the enrollment of a student who is a  
5    registered sex or kidnapping offender classified as a risk level III,  
6    the college may impose reasonable restrictions on the student in  
7    order to protect the safety of other students, teachers, and  
8    personnel at the college. Restrictions may include, but are not  
9    limited to:

10        (a) Prohibiting the student from enrolling in courses or programs  
11    where minors will be enrolled or present;

12        (b) Requiring the student to enroll in online or remote learning  
13    courses where he or she will not have in person contact or  
14    interactions with other students or teachers;

15        (c) Prohibiting or restricting the student's access to certain  
16    campus facilities or areas where minors or other vulnerable persons  
17    regularly congregate.

18        (2) If a community or technical college authorizes a registered  
19    sex or kidnapping offender classified as a risk level III to attend  
20    traditional, in person classes, the college may notify the teacher  
21    and other students enrolled in the course or program of the name and  
22    risk classification of the student. Notice under this subsection must  
23    be made in a form likely to be received and read by teachers and  
24    students.

25        (3) For the purposes of this section, "community or technical  
26    college" and "college" refer to a community college or technical  
27    college as those terms are defined in RCW 28B.50.030.

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