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HOUSE BILL 1536

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Timmons, Harris, Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, Walen, Ramel, Morgan, Stonier, Gregerson, Ormsby, and Paul

Read first time 01/24/23. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to requirements governing the withholding of high  
2 school diplomas; and amending RCW 28A.635.060.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.635.060 and 2021 c 120 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) Any pupil who defaces or otherwise injures any school  
7 property, or property belonging to a school contractor, employee, or  
8 another student, may be subject to suspension and punishment. If any  
9 property of the school district, a contractor of the district, an  
10 employee, or another student has been lost or willfully cut, defaced,  
11 or injured, with the damages exceeding \$1,000, the school district  
12 may withhold the diploma, but not the grades or transcripts, of the  
13 student responsible for the damage or loss for the earlier of either  
14 five years from the date of the student's graduation or until the  
15 ~~((student or the student's parent or guardian has paid for the~~  
16 ~~damages. When))~~ amount owed is less than \$1,000.

17 (b) If the student and parent or guardian are unable to pay for  
18 the damages, the school district shall provide a program of community  
19 service for the student in lieu of the payment of monetary damages.  
20 Community service completed in accordance with this subsection (1)(b)  
21 must be credited at the applicable local or state minimum wage,

1 whichever is greater. Upon the completion of community service that  
2 reduces the amount owed to less than \$1,000, the diploma of the  
3 student must be released. The parent or guardian of the student shall  
4 be liable for damages as otherwise provided by law.

5 (2) Before the diploma is withheld under this section, a school  
6 district board of directors shall adopt procedures (~~(which insure)~~)  
7 to ensure that students' rights to due process are protected.

8 (3) If the department of social and health services or a child-  
9 placing agency licensed by the department has been granted custody of  
10 a child, that child's records, if requested by the department or  
11 agency, (~~(are not to)~~) may not be withheld for nonpayment of school  
12 fees or any other reason.

13 (4) (~~(a)~~) Each school district that withholds a diploma under  
14 this section shall publish and maintain the following information on  
15 its website, either with information published under RCW 28A.325.050  
16 or in a different location on its website that facilitates easy  
17 access to the information:

18 (~~(i)~~) (a) The number of diplomas withheld under this section,  
19 by graduating class, during the (~~(previous three)~~) preceding five  
20 school years, with data from the prior reporting year updated  
21 annually to reflect the release of diplomas in accordance with this  
22 section; and

23 (~~(ii)~~) (b) The number of students with withheld diplomas who  
24 were eligible for free or reduced-price meals during their last two  
25 years of enrollment in the school district.

26 (~~(b) To the extent practicable, school districts must publish~~  
27 ~~the information required by this subsection (4) with the information~~  
28 ~~published under RCW 28A.325.050.)~~)

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