
SENATE BILL 5646

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Harris, Cleveland, and Hasegawa

Read first time 02/03/25. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to criminal penalties for assaulting outreach
2 workers; amending RCW 9A.36.031; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9A.36.031 and 2024 c 220 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A person is guilty of assault in the third degree if he or
7 she, under circumstances not amounting to assault in the first or
8 second degree:

9 (a) With intent to prevent or resist the execution of any lawful
10 process or mandate of any court officer or the lawful apprehension or
11 detention of himself, herself, or another person, assaults another;
12 or

13 (b) Assaults a person employed as a transit operator or driver,
14 the immediate supervisor of a transit operator or driver, a mechanic,
15 or a security officer, by a public or private transit company or a
16 contracted transit service provider, while that person is performing
17 his or her official duties at the time of the assault; or

18 (c) Assaults a school bus driver, the immediate supervisor of a
19 driver, a mechanic, or a security officer, employed by a school
20 district transportation service or a private company under contract
21 for transportation services with a school district, while the person

1 is performing his or her official duties at the time of the assault;
2 or

3 (d) With criminal negligence, causes bodily harm to another
4 person by means of a weapon or other instrument or thing likely to
5 produce bodily harm; or

6 (e) Assaults a firefighter or other employee of a fire
7 department, county fire marshal's office, county fire prevention
8 bureau, or fire protection district who was performing his or her
9 official duties at the time of the assault; or

10 (f) With criminal negligence, causes bodily harm accompanied by
11 substantial pain that extends for a period sufficient to cause
12 considerable suffering; or

13 (g) Assaults a law enforcement officer or other employee of a law
14 enforcement agency who was performing his or her official duties at
15 the time of the assault; or

16 (h) Assaults a peace officer with a projectile stun gun; or

17 (i) Assaults a nurse, physician, or health care provider who was
18 performing his or her nursing or health care duties at the time of
19 the assault. For purposes of this subsection: "Nurse" means a person
20 licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW; "physician" means a person licensed
21 under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW; and "health care provider" means a
22 person certified under chapter 18.71 or 18.73 RCW who performs
23 emergency medical services or a person regulated under Title 18 RCW
24 and employed by, or contracting with, a hospital licensed under
25 chapter 70.41 RCW; or

26 (j) Assaults a judicial officer, court-related employee, county
27 clerk, or county clerk's employee, while that person is performing
28 his or her official duties at the time of the assault or as a result
29 of that person's employment within the judicial system. For purposes
30 of this subsection, "court-related employee" includes bailiffs, court
31 reporters, judicial assistants, court managers, court managers'
32 employees, and any other employee, regardless of title, who is
33 engaged in equivalent functions; or

34 (k) Assaults a person located in a courtroom, jury room, judge's
35 chamber, or any waiting area or corridor immediately adjacent to a
36 courtroom, jury room, or judge's chamber. This section shall apply
37 only: (i) During the times when a courtroom, jury room, or judge's
38 chamber is being used for judicial purposes during court proceedings;
39 and (ii) if signage was posted in compliance with RCW 2.28.200 at the
40 time of the assault; or

1 (1) Is a licensed health care provider who implants or causes
2 another to implant the provider's own gametes or reproductive
3 material into a patient during an assisted reproduction procedure.
4 For the purposes of this subsection, "gamete" means sperm, egg, or
5 any part of a sperm or egg, and "reproductive material" means a human
6 gamete or a human organism at any stage of development from
7 fertilized ovum to embryo; or

8 (m) Assaults a person employed as an outreach worker while that
9 person is performing his or her official duties at the time of the
10 assault. For purposes of this subsection, "outreach worker" means a
11 person who performs services for and is employed by, or contracting
12 with, a social service agency or government organization. Outreach
13 workers often work with vulnerable populations, such as the homeless,
14 runaway youth, and victims of abuse. Outreach workers conduct needs
15 assessments to identify client living conditions and possible support
16 systems. Outreach workers' work may be in homes, shelters, or street
17 encampments.

18 (2) Assault in the third degree is a class C felony.

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