
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2632

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Valdez, Griffey, Ryu, Pellicciotti, Pollet, Orwall, Gregerson, Goodman, Irwin, Ramos, Slatter, Entenman, Davis, and Macri)

1 AN ACT Relating to false reporting of a crime or emergency;
2 amending RCW 9A.84.040; reenacting and amending RCW 9.94A.515; adding
3 a new section to chapter 4.24 RCW; creating a new section; and
4 prescribing penalties.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that false
7 reporting laws criminalize the knowingly false reporting of certain
8 occurrences that are likely to cause unwarranted evacuations, public
9 inconvenience, or alarm. Recently, however, false reporting and the
10 911 system have been weaponized, resulting in serious dangers and
11 even lost lives. The term "swatting" describes the false reporting of
12 an emergency with the goal of having a police unit or special weapons
13 and tactics team deployed. The reckless act of swatting, often
14 motivated by the perpetrator's bias towards protected classes, has
15 caused death and trauma in some cases. As such, the legislature finds
16 that a gross misdemeanor is insufficient as a legal response and
17 hereby create felony false reporting punishments when the false
18 reporting leads to injury or death.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9A.84.040 and 2011 c 336 s 411 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

1 (1) A person (~~(is guilty of)~~) commits false reporting if, with
2 knowledge that the information reported, conveyed, or circulated is
3 false, he or she initiates or circulates a false report or warning of
4 an alleged occurrence or impending occurrence (~~(of a fire, explosion,~~
5 ~~crime, catastrophe, or emergency)~~) knowing that such false report is
6 likely to cause (~~(evacuation)~~): Evacuation of a building, place of
7 assembly, or transportation facility(~~(, or to cause))~~; public
8 inconvenience or alarm; or an emergency response.

9 (2) (a) A person is guilty of false reporting in the first degree
10 if the report was made with reckless disregard for the safety of
11 others, the false reporting caused an emergency response, and death
12 is sustained by any person as a proximate result of an emergency
13 response. False reporting in the first degree is a class B felony.

14 (b) A person is guilty of false reporting in the second degree if
15 the report was made with reckless disregard for the safety of others,
16 the false reporting caused an emergency response, and substantial
17 bodily harm is sustained by any person as a proximate result of an
18 emergency response. False reporting in the second degree is a class C
19 felony.

20 (c) A person is guilty of false reporting in the third degree if
21 he or she commits false reporting under circumstances not
22 constituting false reporting in the first or second degree. False
23 reporting in the third degree is a gross misdemeanor.

24 (3) Any criminal offense committed under this section may be
25 deemed to have been committed either at the place from which the
26 false report was made, at the place where the false report was
27 received by law enforcement, or at the place where an evacuation,
28 public inconvenience or alarm, or emergency response occurred.

29 (4) For the purposes of this section, "emergency response" means
30 any action to protect life, health, or property by:

31 (a) A peace officer or law enforcement agency of the United
32 States, the state, or a political subdivision of the state; or

33 (b) An agency of the United States, the state, or a political
34 subdivision of the state, or a private not-for-profit organization
35 that provides fire, rescue, or emergency medical services.

36 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW
37 to read as follows:

38 An individual who is a victim of an offense under RCW 9A.84.040
39 may bring a civil action against the person who committed the offense

1 and may recover damages and any other appropriate relief, including
2 reasonable attorneys' fees.

3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 9.94A.515 and 2019 c 271 s 7, 2019 c 243 s 5, 2019 c
4 64 s 3, and 2019 c 46 s 5009 are each reenacted and amended to read
5 as follows:

6 TABLE 2

7 CRIMES INCLUDED WITHIN EACH
8 SERIOUSNESS LEVEL

- 9 XVI Aggravated Murder 1 (RCW 10.95.020)
- 10 XV Homicide by abuse (RCW 9A.32.055)
- 11 Malicious explosion 1 (RCW
12 70.74.280(1))
- 13 Murder 1 (RCW 9A.32.030)
- 14 XIV Murder 2 (RCW 9A.32.050)
- 15 Trafficking 1 (RCW 9A.40.100(1))
- 16 XIII Malicious explosion 2 (RCW
17 70.74.280(2))
- 18 Malicious placement of an explosive 1
19 (RCW 70.74.270(1))
- 20 XII Assault 1 (RCW 9A.36.011)
- 21 Assault of a Child 1 (RCW 9A.36.120)
- 22 Malicious placement of an imitation
23 device 1 (RCW 70.74.272(1)(a))
- 24 Promoting Commercial Sexual Abuse of
25 a Minor (RCW 9.68A.101)
- 26 Rape 1 (RCW 9A.44.040)
- 27 Rape of a Child 1 (RCW 9A.44.073)
- 28 Trafficking 2 (RCW 9A.40.100(3))
- 29 XI Manslaughter 1 (RCW 9A.32.060)
- 30 Rape 2 (RCW 9A.44.050)
- 31 Rape of a Child 2 (RCW 9A.44.076)
- 32 Vehicular Homicide, by being under the
33 influence of intoxicating liquor or
34 any drug (RCW 46.61.520)

1 Vehicular Homicide, by the operation of
2 any vehicle in a reckless manner
3 (RCW 46.61.520)

4 X Child Molestation 1 (RCW 9A.44.083)

5 Criminal Mistreatment 1 (RCW
6 9A.42.020)

7 Indecent Liberties (with forcible
8 compulsion) (RCW
9 9A.44.100(1)(a))

10 Kidnapping 1 (RCW 9A.40.020)

11 Leading Organized Crime (RCW
12 9A.82.060(1)(a))

13 Malicious explosion 3 (RCW
14 70.74.280(3))

15 Sexually Violent Predator Escape (RCW
16 9A.76.115)

17 IX Abandonment of Dependent Person 1
18 (RCW 9A.42.060)

19 Assault of a Child 2 (RCW 9A.36.130)

20 Explosive devices prohibited (RCW
21 70.74.180)

22 Hit and Run—Death (RCW
23 46.52.020(4)(a))

24 Homicide by Watercraft, by being under
25 the influence of intoxicating liquor
26 or any drug (RCW 79A.60.050)

27 Inciting Criminal Profiteering (RCW
28 9A.82.060(1)(b))

29 Malicious placement of an explosive 2
30 (RCW 70.74.270(2))

31 Robbery 1 (RCW 9A.56.200)

32 Sexual Exploitation (RCW 9.68A.040)

33 VIII Arson 1 (RCW 9A.48.020)

34 Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor
35 (RCW 9.68A.100)

1 Homicide by Watercraft, by the
2 operation of any vessel in a reckless
3 manner (RCW 79A.60.050)
4 Manslaughter 2 (RCW 9A.32.070)
5 Promoting Prostitution 1 (RCW
6 9A.88.070)
7 Theft of Ammonia (RCW 69.55.010)
8 VII Air bag diagnostic systems (causing
9 bodily injury or death) (RCW
10 46.37.660(2)(b))
11 Air bag replacement requirements
12 (causing bodily injury or death)
13 (RCW 46.37.660(1)(b))
14 Burglary 1 (RCW 9A.52.020)
15 Child Molestation 2 (RCW 9A.44.086)
16 Civil Disorder Training (RCW
17 9A.48.120)
18 Dealing in depictions of minor engaged
19 in sexually explicit conduct 1
20 (RCW 9.68A.050(1))
21 Drive-by Shooting (RCW 9A.36.045)
22 False Reporting 1 (RCW
23 9A.84.040(2)(a))
24 Homicide by Watercraft, by disregard
25 for the safety of others (RCW
26 79A.60.050)
27 Indecent Liberties (without forcible
28 compulsion) (RCW 9A.44.100(1)
29 (b) and (c))
30 Introducing Contraband 1 (RCW
31 9A.76.140)
32 Malicious placement of an explosive 3
33 (RCW 70.74.270(3))

1 Manufacture or import counterfeit,
2 nonfunctional, damaged, or
3 previously deployed air bag
4 (causing bodily injury or death)
5 (RCW 46.37.650(1)(b))
6 Negligently Causing Death By Use of a
7 Signal Preemption Device (RCW
8 46.37.675)
9 Sell, install, or reinstall counterfeit,
10 nonfunctional, damaged, or
11 previously deployed airbag (RCW
12 46.37.650(2)(b))
13 Sending, bringing into state depictions
14 of minor engaged in sexually
15 explicit conduct 1 (RCW
16 9.68A.060(1))
17 Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in the
18 first degree (RCW 9.41.040(1))
19 Use of a Machine Gun or Bump-fire
20 Stock in Commission of a Felony
21 (RCW 9.41.225)
22 Vehicular Homicide, by disregard for
23 the safety of others (RCW
24 46.61.520)
25 VI Bail Jumping with Murder 1 (RCW
26 9A.76.170(3)(a))
27 Bribery (RCW 9A.68.010)
28 Incest 1 (RCW 9A.64.020(1))
29 Intimidating a Judge (RCW 9A.72.160)
30 Intimidating a Juror/Witness (RCW
31 9A.72.110, 9A.72.130)
32 Malicious placement of an imitation
33 device 2 (RCW 70.74.272(1)(b))
34 Possession of Depictions of a Minor
35 Engaged in Sexually Explicit
36 Conduct 1 (RCW 9.68A.070(1))

1 Rape of a Child 3 (RCW 9A.44.079)
2 Theft of a Firearm (RCW 9A.56.300)
3 Theft from a Vulnerable Adult 1 (RCW
4 9A.56.400(1))
5 Unlawful Storage of Ammonia (RCW
6 69.55.020)
7 V Abandonment of Dependent Person 2
8 (RCW 9A.42.070)
9 Advancing money or property for
10 extortionate extension of credit
11 (RCW 9A.82.030)
12 Air bag diagnostic systems (RCW
13 46.37.660(2)(c))
14 Air bag replacement requirements
15 (RCW 46.37.660(1)(c))
16 Bail Jumping with class A Felony
17 (RCW 9A.76.170(3)(b))
18 Child Molestation 3 (RCW 9A.44.089)
19 Criminal Mistreatment 2 (RCW
20 9A.42.030)
21 Custodial Sexual Misconduct 1 (RCW
22 9A.44.160)
23 Dealing in Depictions of Minor
24 Engaged in Sexually Explicit
25 Conduct 2 (RCW 9.68A.050(2))
26 Domestic Violence Court Order
27 Violation (RCW 10.99.040,
28 10.99.050, 26.09.300, 26.10.220,
29 26.26B.050, 26.50.110, 26.52.070,
30 or 74.34.145)
31 Extortion 1 (RCW 9A.56.120)
32 Extortionate Extension of Credit (RCW
33 9A.82.020)
34 Extortionate Means to Collect
35 Extensions of Credit (RCW
36 9A.82.040)

1 Incest 2 (RCW 9A.64.020(2))
2 Kidnapping 2 (RCW 9A.40.030)
3 Manufacture or import counterfeit,
4 nonfunctional, damaged, or
5 previously deployed air bag (RCW
6 46.37.650(1)(c))
7 Perjury 1 (RCW 9A.72.020)
8 Persistent prison misbehavior (RCW
9 9.94.070)
10 Possession of a Stolen Firearm (RCW
11 9A.56.310)
12 Rape 3 (RCW 9A.44.060)
13 Rendering Criminal Assistance 1 (RCW
14 9A.76.070)
15 Sell, install, or reinstall counterfeit,
16 nonfunctional, damaged, or
17 previously deployed airbag (RCW
18 46.37.650(2)(c))
19 Sending, Bringing into State Depictions
20 of Minor Engaged in Sexually
21 Explicit Conduct 2 (RCW
22 9.68A.060(2))
23 Sexual Misconduct with a Minor 1
24 (RCW 9A.44.093)
25 Sexually Violating Human Remains
26 (RCW 9A.44.105)
27 Stalking (RCW 9A.46.110)
28 Taking Motor Vehicle Without
29 Permission 1 (RCW 9A.56.070)
30 IV Arson 2 (RCW 9A.48.030)
31 Assault 2 (RCW 9A.36.021)
32 Assault 3 (of a Peace Officer with a
33 Projectile Stun Gun) (RCW
34 9A.36.031(1)(h))
35 Assault 4 (third domestic violence
36 offense) (RCW 9A.36.041(3))

1 Assault by Watercraft (RCW
2 79A.60.060)
3 Bribing a Witness/Bribe Received by
4 Witness (RCW 9A.72.090,
5 9A.72.100)
6 Cheating 1 (RCW 9.46.1961)
7 Commercial Bribery (RCW 9A.68.060)
8 Counterfeiting (RCW 9.16.035(4))
9 Driving While Under the Influence
10 (RCW 46.61.502(6))
11 Endangerment with a Controlled
12 Substance (RCW 9A.42.100)
13 Escape 1 (RCW 9A.76.110)
14 Hate Crime (RCW 9A.36.080)
15 Hit and Run—Injury (RCW
16 46.52.020(4)(b))
17 Hit and Run with Vessel—Injury
18 Accident (RCW 79A.60.200(3))
19 Identity Theft 1 (RCW 9.35.020(2))
20 Indecent Exposure to Person Under Age
21 Fourteen (subsequent sex offense)
22 (RCW 9A.88.010)
23 Influencing Outcome of Sporting Event
24 (RCW 9A.82.070)
25 Physical Control of a Vehicle While
26 Under the Influence (RCW
27 46.61.504(6))
28 Possession of Depictions of a Minor
29 Engaged in Sexually Explicit
30 Conduct 2 (RCW 9.68A.070(2))
31 Residential Burglary (RCW 9A.52.025)
32 Robbery 2 (RCW 9A.56.210)
33 Theft of Livestock 1 (RCW 9A.56.080)
34 Threats to Bomb (RCW 9.61.160)

1 Trafficking in Stolen Property 1 (RCW
2 9A.82.050)

3 Unlawful factoring of a credit card or
4 payment card transaction (RCW
5 9A.56.290(4)(b))

6 Unlawful transaction of health coverage
7 as a health care service contractor
8 (RCW 48.44.016(3))

9 Unlawful transaction of health coverage
10 as a health maintenance
11 organization (RCW 48.46.033(3))

12 Unlawful transaction of insurance
13 business (RCW 48.15.023(3))

14 Unlicensed practice as an insurance
15 professional (RCW 48.17.063(2))

16 Use of Proceeds of Criminal
17 Profiteering (RCW 9A.82.080 (1)
18 and (2))

19 Vehicle Prowling 2 (third or subsequent
20 offense) (RCW 9A.52.100(3))

21 Vehicular Assault, by being under the
22 influence of intoxicating liquor or
23 any drug, or by the operation or
24 driving of a vehicle in a reckless
25 manner (RCW 46.61.522)

26 Viewing of Depictions of a Minor
27 Engaged in Sexually Explicit
28 Conduct 1 (RCW 9.68A.075(1))

29 Willful Failure to Return from Furlough
30 (RCW 72.66.060)

31 III Animal Cruelty 1 (Sexual Conduct or
32 Contact) (RCW 16.52.205(3))

33 Assault 3 (Except Assault 3 of a Peace
34 Officer With a Projectile Stun Gun)
35 (RCW 9A.36.031 except subsection
36 (1)(h))

37 Assault of a Child 3 (RCW 9A.36.140)

1 Bail Jumping with class B or C Felony
2 (RCW 9A.76.170(3)(c))
3 Burglary 2 (RCW 9A.52.030)
4 Communication with a Minor for
5 Immoral Purposes (RCW
6 9.68A.090)
7 Criminal Gang Intimidation (RCW
8 9A.46.120)
9 Custodial Assault (RCW 9A.36.100)
10 Cyberstalking (subsequent conviction or
11 threat of death) (RCW 9.61.260(3))
12 Escape 2 (RCW 9A.76.120)
13 Extortion 2 (RCW 9A.56.130)
14 False Reporting 2 (RCW
15 9A.84.040(2)(b))
16 Harassment (RCW 9A.46.020)
17 Intimidating a Public Servant (RCW
18 9A.76.180)
19 Introducing Contraband 2 (RCW
20 9A.76.150)
21 Malicious Injury to Railroad Property
22 (RCW 81.60.070)
23 Manufacture of Untraceable Firearm
24 with Intent to Sell (RCW 9.41.190)
25 Manufacture or Assembly of an
26 Undetectable Firearm or
27 Untraceable Firearm (RCW
28 9.41.325)
29 Mortgage Fraud (RCW 19.144.080)
30 Negligently Causing Substantial Bodily
31 Harm By Use of a Signal
32 Preemption Device (RCW
33 46.37.674)
34 Organized Retail Theft 1 (RCW
35 9A.56.350(2))

1 Perjury 2 (RCW 9A.72.030)
2 Possession of Incendiary Device (RCW
3 9.40.120)
4 Possession of Machine Gun, Bump-Fire
5 Stock, Undetectable Firearm, or
6 Short-Barreled Shotgun or Rifle
7 (RCW 9.41.190)
8 Promoting Prostitution 2 (RCW
9 9A.88.080)
10 Retail Theft with Special Circumstances
11 1 (RCW 9A.56.360(2))
12 Securities Act violation (RCW
13 21.20.400)
14 Tampering with a Witness (RCW
15 9A.72.120)
16 Telephone Harassment (subsequent
17 conviction or threat of death) (RCW
18 9.61.230(2))
19 Theft of Livestock 2 (RCW 9A.56.083)
20 Theft with the Intent to Resell 1 (RCW
21 9A.56.340(2))
22 Trafficking in Stolen Property 2 (RCW
23 9A.82.055)
24 Unlawful Hunting of Big Game 1 (RCW
25 77.15.410(3)(b))
26 Unlawful Imprisonment (RCW
27 9A.40.040)
28 Unlawful Misbranding of Fish or
29 Shellfish 1 (RCW 77.140.060(3))
30 Unlawful possession of firearm in the
31 second degree (RCW 9.41.040(2))
32 Unlawful Taking of Endangered Fish or
33 Wildlife 1 (RCW 77.15.120(3)(b))
34 Unlawful Trafficking in Fish, Shellfish,
35 or Wildlife 1 (RCW
36 77.15.260(3)(b))

1 Unlawful Use of a Nondesignated
2 Vessel (RCW 77.15.530(4))
3 Vehicular Assault, by the operation or
4 driving of a vehicle with disregard
5 for the safety of others (RCW
6 46.61.522)
7 Willful Failure to Return from Work
8 Release (RCW 72.65.070)
9 II Commercial Fishing Without a License
10 1 (RCW 77.15.500(3)(b))
11 Computer Trespass 1 (RCW 9A.90.040)
12 Counterfeiting (RCW 9.16.035(3))
13 Electronic Data Service Interference
14 (RCW 9A.90.060)
15 Electronic Data Tampering 1 (RCW
16 9A.90.080)
17 Electronic Data Theft (RCW 9A.90.100)
18 Engaging in Fish Dealing Activity
19 Unlicensed 1 (RCW 77.15.620(3))
20 Escape from Community Custody
21 (RCW 72.09.310)
22 Failure to Register as a Sex Offender
23 (second or subsequent offense)
24 (RCW 9A.44.130 prior to June 10,
25 2010, and RCW 9A.44.132)
26 Health Care False Claims (RCW
27 48.80.030)
28 Identity Theft 2 (RCW 9.35.020(3))
29 Improperly Obtaining Financial
30 Information (RCW 9.35.010)
31 Malicious Mischief 1 (RCW 9A.48.070)
32 Organized Retail Theft 2 (RCW
33 9A.56.350(3))
34 Possession of Stolen Property 1 (RCW
35 9A.56.150)

1 Possession of a Stolen Vehicle (RCW
2 9A.56.068)
3 Retail Theft with Special Circumstances
4 2 (RCW 9A.56.360(3))
5 Scrap Processing, Recycling, or
6 Supplying Without a License
7 (second or subsequent offense)
8 (RCW 19.290.100)
9 Theft 1 (RCW 9A.56.030)
10 Theft of a Motor Vehicle (RCW
11 9A.56.065)
12 Theft of Rental, Leased, Lease-
13 purchased, or Loaned Property
14 (valued at five thousand dollars or
15 more) (RCW 9A.56.096(5)(a))
16 Theft with the Intent to Resell 2 (RCW
17 9A.56.340(3))
18 Trafficking in Insurance Claims (RCW
19 48.30A.015)
20 Unlawful factoring of a credit card or
21 payment card transaction (RCW
22 9A.56.290(4)(a))
23 Unlawful Participation of Non-Indians
24 in Indian Fishery (RCW
25 77.15.570(2))
26 Unlawful Practice of Law (RCW
27 2.48.180)
28 Unlawful Purchase or Use of a License
29 (RCW 77.15.650(3)(b))
30 Unlawful Trafficking in Fish, Shellfish,
31 or Wildlife 2 (RCW
32 77.15.260(3)(a))
33 Unlicensed Practice of a Profession or
34 Business (RCW 18.130.190(7))
35 Voyeurism 1 (RCW 9A.44.115)

1 I Attempting to Elude a Pursuing Police
2 Vehicle (RCW 46.61.024)
3 False Verification for Welfare (RCW
4 74.08.055)
5 Forgery (RCW 9A.60.020)
6 Fraudulent Creation or Revocation of a
7 Mental Health Advance Directive
8 (RCW 9A.60.060)
9 Malicious Mischief 2 (RCW 9A.48.080)
10 Mineral Trespass (RCW 78.44.330)
11 Possession of Stolen Property 2 (RCW
12 9A.56.160)
13 Reckless Burning 1 (RCW 9A.48.040)
14 Spotlighting Big Game 1 (RCW
15 77.15.450(3)(b))
16 Suspension of Department Privileges 1
17 (RCW 77.15.670(3)(b))
18 Taking Motor Vehicle Without
19 Permission 2 (RCW 9A.56.075)
20 Theft 2 (RCW 9A.56.040)
21 Theft from a Vulnerable Adult 2 (RCW
22 9A.56.400(2))
23 Theft of Rental, Leased, Lease-
24 purchased, or Loaned Property
25 (valued at seven hundred fifty
26 dollars or more but less than five
27 thousand dollars) (RCW
28 9A.56.096(5)(b))
29 Transaction of insurance business
30 beyond the scope of licensure
31 (RCW 48.17.063)
32 Unlawful Fish and Shellfish Catch
33 Accounting (RCW 77.15.630(3)(b))
34 Unlawful Issuance of Checks or Drafts
35 (RCW 9A.56.060)

1 Unlawful Possession of Fictitious
2 Identification (RCW 9A.56.320)
3 Unlawful Possession of Instruments of
4 Financial Fraud (RCW 9A.56.320)
5 Unlawful Possession of Payment
6 Instruments (RCW 9A.56.320)
7 Unlawful Possession of a Personal
8 Identification Device (RCW
9 9A.56.320)
10 Unlawful Production of Payment
11 Instruments (RCW 9A.56.320)
12 Unlawful Releasing, Planting,
13 Possessing, or Placing Deleterious
14 Exotic Wildlife (RCW
15 77.15.250(2)(b))
16 Unlawful Trafficking in Food Stamps
17 (RCW 9.91.142)
18 Unlawful Use of Food Stamps (RCW
19 9.91.144)
20 Unlawful Use of Net to Take Fish 1
21 (RCW 77.15.580(3)(b))
22 Unlawful Use of Prohibited Aquatic
23 Animal Species (RCW
24 77.15.253(3))
25 Vehicle Prowl 1 (RCW 9A.52.095)
26 Violating Commercial Fishing Area or
27 Time 1 (RCW 77.15.550(3)(b))

--- **END** ---