
SENATE BILL 6446

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senator Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/14/10. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the period of time during which a licensed
2 overnight youth shelter, or an organization whose stated mission is to
3 provide services to homeless or runaway youth and their families, must
4 provide notification to parents of runaway youth; amending RCW
5 13.32A.082; and creating a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that youth services
8 provide safety to youth on the streets and are a critical pathway to
9 ensuring the youth's return home. Runaway youth are without
10 protection, live under the threat of violence, and fall victim to
11 predators who exploit their vulnerability. The policy of this state is
12 to provide assistance to youth in crisis and to protect and preserve
13 families. In order to effectively serve youth on the streets and
14 promote their safe return home, shelters must have the time to
15 establish and maintain an environment that facilitates open
16 communication and trust.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.32A.082 and 2000 c 123 s 10 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

1 (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any person
2 who, without legal authorization, provides shelter to a minor and who
3 knows at the time of providing the shelter that the minor is away from
4 the parent's home without the permission of the parent, or other
5 lawfully prescribed residence, shall promptly report the location of
6 the child to the parent, the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction
7 in which the person lives, or the department. ((The report)) For
8 purposes of this section, "promptly report" means to report within
9 eight hours after the person has knowledge that the minor is away from
10 a lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental permission.

11 (b) If a licensed overnight youth shelter, or an organization whose
12 stated mission is to provide services to homeless or runaway youth and
13 their families, provides shelter to a minor and knows at the time of
14 providing the shelter that the minor is away from a lawfully prescribed
15 residence or home without parental permission, it shall contact the
16 parent within seventy-two hours. The notification should include a
17 description of the minor's physical and emotional condition and the
18 circumstances surrounding the minor's contact with the organization.
19 If there are compelling reasons not to notify the parent, the
20 organization shall instead notify the department.

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

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

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

27 ~~(b) ("Promptly report" means to report within eight hours after~~
28 ~~the person has knowledge that the minor is away from a lawfully~~
29 ~~prescribed residence or home without parental permission.))~~ "Compelling
30 reasons" under subsection (1)(b) of this section include, but are not
31 limited to, circumstances which indicate that notifying the parent or
32 legal guardian will subject the child to abuse or neglect as defined in
33 chapter 26.44 RCW.

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

1 (4) Nothing in this section prohibits any person from immediately
2 reporting the identity and location of any minor who is away from a
3 lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental permission more
4 promptly than required under this section.

--- END ---