

ington and its existing institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate March 12, 1953.

Passed the House March 11, 1953.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 1953.

CHAPTER 255.

[ S. B. 476. ]

FAMILY DESERTION—NON-SUPPORT.

AN ACT relating to family desertion; providing penalties for non-support; and amending section 26.20.030, RCW.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. Section 26.20.030, RCW, as derived from section 1, chapter 158, Laws of 1943, is amended to read as follows: Amendment.

Every person who:

(1) Has a child dependent upon him or her for care, education, or support and deserts such child in any manner whatever with intent to abandon it; or Desertion and non-support.

(2) Wilfully omits, without lawful excuse, to furnish necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical attendance for his or her child or children or ward or wards; or

(3) Has sufficient ability to provide for his wife's support or is able to earn the means for his wife's support and wilfully abandons and leaves her in a destitute condition; or who refuses or neglects to provide his wife with necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical attendance, unless by her misconduct he is justified in abandoning her, shall be guilty of the crime of family desertion or non-support.

When children are involved under the age of sixteen years, such act shall be punished as follows: Penalty.

(1) In the case of a first offense by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than thirty days, or by 1st offense.

fine of not more than one hundred dollars or by both fine and imprisonment.

2nd offense.

(2) In the case of a second offense by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than thirty and not more than ninety days, or by fine of not more than three hundred dollars, or by both fine and imprisonment.

3rd offense.

(3) In the case of a third offense, such act shall be a felony and punished by imprisonment in the state penitentiary for not more than twenty years or, by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or by fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by both fine and imprisonment.

When there is no child under sixteen years, such act shall be a gross misdemeanor and shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year or by fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or by both fine and imprisonment.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1953.

Passed the House March 10, 1953.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 1953.