

CHAPTER 149

[Substitute Senate Bill No. 4814]

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION—PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE—USE OF FORCE—
SCHOOL CURRICULUM MAY INCLUDE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

AN ACT Relating to child abuse prevention; amending RCW 9A.16.020, 28A.04.120, and 28A.05.010; and adding a new section to chapter 9A.16 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 9A.16 RCW to read as follows:

It is the policy of this state to protect children from assault and abuse and to encourage parents, teachers, and their authorized agents to use methods of correction and restraint of children that are not dangerous to the children. However, the physical discipline of a child is not unlawful when it is reasonable and moderate and is inflicted by a parent, teacher, or guardian for purposes of restraining or correcting the child. Any use of force on a child by any other person is unlawful unless it is reasonable and moderate and is authorized in advance by the child's parent or guardian for purposes of restraining or correcting the child.

The following actions are presumed unreasonable when used to correct or restrain a child: (1) Throwing, kicking, burning, or cutting a child; (2) striking a child with a closed fist; (3) shaking a child under age three; (4) interfering with a child's breathing; (5) threatening a child with a deadly weapon; or (6) doing any other act that is likely to cause and which does cause bodily harm greater than transient pain or minor temporary marks. The age, size, and condition of the child and the location of the injury shall be considered when determining whether the bodily harm is reasonable or moderate. This list is illustrative of unreasonable actions and is not intended to be exclusive.

Sec. 2. Section 9A.16.020, chapter 260, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. as last amended by section 7, chapter 244, Laws of 1979 ex. sess. and RCW 9A.16.020 are each amended to read as follows:

The use, attempt, or offer to use force upon or toward the person of another is not unlawful in the following cases:

(1) Whenever necessarily used by a public officer in the performance of a legal duty, or a person assisting ~~((him))~~ the officer and acting under ~~((his))~~ the officer's direction;

(2) Whenever necessarily used by a person arresting one who has committed a felony and delivering him or her to a public officer competent to receive him or her into custody;

(3) Whenever used by a party about to be injured, or by another lawfully aiding him or her, in preventing or attempting to prevent an offense

against his or her person, or a malicious trespass, or other malicious interference with real or personal property lawfully in his or her possession, in case the force is not more than is necessary;

(4) Whenever reasonably used by a person to detain someone who enters or remains unlawfully in a building or on real property lawfully in the possession of such person, so long as such detention is reasonable in duration and manner to investigate the reason for the detained person's presence on the premises, and so long as the premises in question did not reasonably appear to be intended to be open to members of the public;

(5) ~~((Whenever used in a reasonable and moderate manner by a parent or his authorized agent, a guardian, master, or teacher in the exercise of lawful authority, to restrain or correct his child, ward, apprentice, or scholar;~~

(6)) Whenever used by a carrier of passengers or ((his)) the carrier's authorized agent or servant, or other person assisting them at their request in expelling from a carriage, railway car, vessel, or other vehicle, a passenger who refuses to obey a lawful and reasonable regulation prescribed for the conduct of passengers, if such vehicle has first been stopped and the force used is not more than is necessary to expel the offender with reasonable regard to ((his)) the offender's personal safety;

((7)) (6) Whenever used by any person to prevent a mentally ill, mentally incompetent, or mentally disabled person from committing an act dangerous to ((himself or another)) any person, or in enforcing necessary restraint for the protection ((of his person,)) or ((his)) restoration to health of the person, during such period only as is necessary to obtain legal authority for the restraint or custody of ((his)) the person.

Sec. 3. Section 28A.04.120, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as last amended by section 2, chapter 40, Laws of 1984 and RCW 28A.04.120 are each amended to read as follows:

In addition to any other powers and duties as provided by law, the state board of education shall:

(1) Approve the program of courses leading to teacher, school administrator, and school specialized personnel certification offered by all institutions of higher education within the state which may be accredited and whose graduates may become entitled to receive such certification.

(2) Investigate the character of the work required to be performed as a condition of entrance to and graduation from any institution of higher education in this state relative to such certification as provided for in subsection (1) above, and prepare a list of accredited institutions of higher education of this and other states whose graduates may be awarded such certificates.

(3) Supervise the issuance of such certificates as provided for in subsection (1) above and specify the types and kinds of certificates necessary for the several departments of the common schools by rule or regulation in accordance with RCW 28A.70.005.

(4) Accredited, subject to such accreditation standards and procedures as may be established by the state board of education, all schools that apply for accreditation, and approve, subject to the provisions of RCW 28A.02-.201, private schools carrying out a program for any or all of the grades one through twelve: PROVIDED, That no public or private schools shall be placed upon the list of accredited schools so long as secret societies are knowingly allowed to exist among its students by school officials: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the state board may elect to require all or certain classifications of the public schools to conduct and participate in such pre-accreditation examination and evaluation processes as may now or hereafter be established by the board.

(5) Make rules and regulations governing the establishment in any existing nonhigh school district of any secondary program or any new grades in grades nine through twelve. Before any such program or any new grades are established the district must obtain prior approval of the state board.

(6) Prepare such outline of study for the common schools as the board shall deem necessary, and prescribe such rules for the general government of the common schools, as shall seek to secure regularity of attendance, prevent truancy, secure efficiency, and promote the true interest of the common schools.

(7) Prepare with the assistance of the superintendent of public instruction a uniform series of questions, with the proper answers thereto for use in the correcting thereof, to be used in the examination of persons, as this code may direct, and prescribe rules and regulations for conducting any such examinations.

(8) Continuously reevaluate courses and adopt and enforce regulations within the common schools so as to meet the educational needs of students and articulate with the institutions of higher education and unify the work of the public school system.

(9) Carry out board powers and duties relating to the organization and reorganization of school districts under chapter 28A.57 RCW.

(10) By rule or regulation promulgated upon the advice of the state fire marshal, provide for instruction of pupils in the public and private schools carrying out a K through 12 program, or any part thereof, so that in case of sudden emergency they shall be able to leave their particular school building in the shortest possible time or take such other steps as the particular emergency demands, and without confusion or panic; such rules and regulations shall be published and distributed to certificated personnel throughout the state whose duties shall include a familiarization therewith as well as the means of implementation thereof at their particular school.

(11) Hear and decide appeals as otherwise provided by law.

The state board of education is given the authority to promulgate information and rules dealing with the prevention of child abuse for purposes of curriculum use in the common schools.

Sec. 4. Section 28A.05.010, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as amended by section 3, chapter 71, Laws of 1969 and RCW 28A.05.010 are each amended to read as follows:

All common schools shall give instruction in reading, penmanship, orthography, written and mental arithmetic, geography, English grammar, physiology and hygiene with special reference to the effects of alcoholic stimulants and narcotics on the human system, the history of the United States, and such other studies as may be prescribed by rule or regulation of the state board of education. All teachers shall stress the importance of the cultivation of manners, the fundamental principles of honesty, honor, industry and economy, the minimum requisites for good health including the beneficial effect of physical exercise, and the worth of kindness to all living creatures. The prevention of child abuse may be offered as part of the curriculum in the common schools.

Passed the Senate March 12, 1986.

Passed the House March 12, 1986.

Approved by the Governor March 31, 1986.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 31, 1986.

CHAPTER 150

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 5033]
PRESCHOOL ACCREDITATION

AN ACT Relating to preschools; adding new sections to chapter 28A.34 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature intends to establish a process for public or nonpublic preschool programs to seek voluntarily accreditation, by the state board of education, of their child development and educational offerings. The purpose of the accreditation is to give parents and other consumers of preschool programs some standard to use to assess the quality of preschool programs.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the definition used in this section shall apply throughout this chapter.

"Preschool" means educational programs that emphasize readiness skills and that enroll children of preschool age on a regular basis for four hours per day or less.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The state board of education shall establish standards and procedures for the accreditation of all public and nonpublic preschools. Such schools are hereby encouraged to apply for such accreditation. In developing standards, the state board of education shall use nationally developed standards if, in the judgment of the state board of