
SENATE BILL 6293

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Salomon, Kuderer, Lovelett, Wilson, C., Mullet, Randall, Keiser, Wellman, and Das

1 AN ACT Relating to civil liability for materially aiding domestic
2 terrorism; adding a new section to chapter 4.24 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Hate crime and domestic terrorism are a growing problem both
7 in the state of Washington and in the United States. Sadly, since
8 2017, there has been a forty-two percent increase in the number of
9 reported hate crimes in Washington compared to a seventeen percent
10 increase in the country as a whole. Not only are the number of hate
11 crimes increasing, but the severity is increasing as well. The
12 number of incidents that involve the use of a weapon is on the rise,
13 as is the incidence of sustained injuries as a result of those hate
14 crimes.

15 (b) Likewise we have seen an increase in the incidence of larger
16 scale or coordinated attacks by extremists and extremist groups that
17 can only be characterized as domestic terrorism.

18 (2) It is the legislature's intent to hold persons and entities
19 accountable for materially aiding domestic terrorism.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) A person who materially aids in domestic terrorism is liable
4 to the victim of the domestic terrorism in a civil cause of action
5 for actual damages, punitive damages of up to one hundred thousand
6 dollars, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in
7 bringing the action.

8 (2) For purposes of this section:

9 (a) "Domestic terrorism" means an act that is dangerous to human
10 life, a violation of the criminal laws of this state, and intended
11 to:

12 (i) Intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

13 (ii) Influence the policy of a government by intimidation or
14 coercion; or

15 (iii) Affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction,
16 assassination, or kidnapping.

17 (b) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust,
18 estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, or other
19 legal or commercial entity. The term does not include a government or
20 governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If any provision of this act or its
22 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
23 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
24 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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