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HOUSE BILL 2246

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representative Low

Prefiled 01/05/26.

1       AN ACT Relating to updating policies for elementary and secondary  
2 school students with firearm violations; and amending RCW  
3 28A.600.420.

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

5       **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.600.420 and 2019 c 266 s 23 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7       (1) (a)(i) Any elementary or secondary school student who is  
8 determined to have carried a firearm onto, or to have possessed a  
9 firearm on, public elementary or secondary school premises, public  
10 school-provided transportation, or areas of facilities while being  
11 used exclusively by public schools, shall be expelled from school for  
12 not less than one year under RCW 28A.600.010. ~~((The superintendent of~~  
13 ~~the school district, educational service district, or state school~~  
14 ~~for the blind, or the director of the Washington center for deaf and~~  
15 ~~hard of hearing youth, or the director's designee, may modify the~~  
16 ~~expulsion of a student on a case-by-case basis.~~

17       ~~(2))~~ (ii) An elementary or secondary student who acts with  
18 malice as defined in RCW 9A.04.110 and displays an instrument that  
19 appears to be a firearm on public elementary or secondary school  
20 premises, public school-provided transportation, or areas of

1 facilities while being used exclusively by public schools, may be  
2 suspended or expelled for up to one year under RCW 28A.600.010.

3 (b) The suspension or expulsion of a student under (a) of this  
4 subsection (1) may be modified on a case-by-case basis by the chief  
5 administrator of the applicable elementary or secondary school,  
6 including the superintendent of the school district or the school  
7 administrator of a charter school, state-tribal education compact  
8 school, the state school for the blind, the Washington center for  
9 deaf and hard of hearing youth, or an educational service district.

10 (2) During the suspension or expulsion period:

11 (a) A school district disciplining a student under subsection (1)  
12 of this section must provide the student with an opportunity to  
13 receive educational services as required by RCW 28A.600.015; and

14 (b) Any of the following entities disciplining a student under  
15 subsection (1) of this section, is not prevented from providing the  
16 student with an opportunity to receive educational services: (i) A  
17 charter school, (ii) a state-tribal education compact school, (iii)  
18 the state school for the blind, (iv) the Washington center for deaf  
19 and hard of hearing youth, or (v) an educational service district,  
20 except when acting in its capacity as an institutional education  
21 provider under chapter 28A.190 RCW.

22 (3) (a) Upon the conclusion of the suspension or expulsion period:

23 (i) A school district may prohibit or limit the return of a  
24 student disciplined by the district under subsection (1) of this  
25 section to the school or educational setting from which the student  
26 was suspended or expelled;

27 (ii) Any of the following entities may deny readmission to a  
28 student disciplined by the entity under subsection (1) of this  
29 section: (A) A charter school, (B) a state-tribal education compact  
30 school, (C) the state school for the blind, (D) the Washington center  
31 for deaf and hard of hearing youth, or (E) an educational service  
32 district, except when acting in its capacity as an institutional  
33 education provider under chapter 28A.190 RCW; and

34 (iii) Any of the following entities may prohibit or limit the  
35 participation or attendance of a student disciplined by the entity  
36 under subsection (1) of this section in extracurricular or other  
37 activities sponsored by the entity: (A) A school district, (B) a  
38 charter school, (C) a state-tribal education compact school, (D) the  
39 state school for the blind, (E) the Washington center for deaf and  
40 hard of hearing youth, or (F) an educational service district, except

1 when acting in its capacity as an institutional education provider  
2 under chapter 28A.190 RCW.

3 (b) A decision to prohibit or limit the return of a student or to  
4 deny a student readmission under (a) of this subsection (3) must be  
5 made by the school district board of directors or other applicable  
6 governing board, based on a recommendation from the superintendent or  
7 other school administrator. The parents or legal guardians of a  
8 student disciplined under subsection (1) of this section may request  
9 that the board reconsider its decision. The board may grant the  
10 request for reconsideration, but any decision regarding the granting  
11 of reconsideration, or made following reconsideration, is final.

12 (4) (a) For a student disciplined under subsection (1) of this  
13 section, the reengagement meeting convened under RCW 28A.600.022 must  
14 include a discussion about whether the student will be reenrolled  
15 full time at the school or educational setting from which the student  
16 was suspended or expelled, or instead provided comparable educational  
17 services in another setting. The meeting may also include a  
18 discussion about whether to readmit the student in stages to the  
19 school or educational setting from which the student was suspended or  
20 expelled.

21 (b) The reengagement plan developed under RCW 28A.600.022 must be  
22 reevaluated with the student and the student's parents or legal  
23 guardians at least every six months unless or until the student is  
24 reenrolled full time at the school or educational setting from which  
25 the student was suspended or expelled.

26 (5) For purposes of this section, (("firearm")) the following  
27 definitions apply:

28 (a) "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921,  
29 and a "firearm" as defined in RCW 9.41.010;

30 (b) "Public elementary or secondary school premises, public  
31 school-provided transportation, or areas of facilities while being  
32 used exclusively by public schools" means any premises,  
33 transportation, or facility areas that are owned, operated, or used  
34 exclusively by any of the following entities: (i) A school district,  
35 (ii) a charter school, (iii) a state-tribal education compact school,  
36 (iv) the state school for the blind, (v) the Washington center for  
37 deaf and hard of hearing youth, or (vi) an educational service  
38 district, except when acting in its capacity as an institutional  
39 education provider under chapter 28A.190 RCW.

1       ~~((3))~~ (6) This section ~~((shall be construed in a manner~~  
2 ~~consistent))~~ must be interpreted consistently with the individuals  
3 with disabilities education act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. ~~((1401))~~ 1400 et seq.

4       ~~((4) Nothing in this section prevents a public school district,~~  
5 ~~educational service district, the Washington center for deaf and hard~~  
6 ~~of hearing youth, or the state school for the blind if it has~~  
7 ~~expelled a student from such student's regular school setting from~~  
8 ~~providing educational services to the student in an alternative~~  
9 ~~setting.~~

10       ~~(5))~~ (7)(a) This section governs school operation and management  
11 under RCW 28A.710.040 and 28A.715.020 and applies to charter schools  
12 established under chapter 28A.710 RCW and state-tribal education  
13 compact schools subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW.

14       (b) In addition to the powers and duties conferred by RCW  
15 72.40.0191 and 72.40.022, this section applies to the state school  
16 for the blind and the Washington center for deaf and hard of hearing  
17 youth.

18       (c) In addition to the powers and duties conferred by RCW  
19 28A.310.180, this section applies to educational service districts,  
20 except when acting in their capacity as institutional education  
21 providers under chapter 28A.190 RCW.

22       (8) This section does not apply to:

23       (a) Any student while engaged in military education authorized by  
24 school authorities in which rifles are used but not other firearms;  
25 or

26       (b) Any student while involved in a convention, showing,  
27 demonstration, lecture, or firearms safety course authorized by  
28 school authorities in which the rifles of collectors or instructors  
29 are handled or displayed but not other firearms; or

30       (c) Any student while participating in a rifle competition  
31 authorized by school authorities.

32       ~~((6) A school district may suspend or expel a student for up to~~  
33 ~~one year subject to subsections (1), (3), (4), and (5) of this~~  
34 ~~section, if the student acts with malice as defined under RCW~~  
35 ~~9A.04.110 and displays an instrument that appears to be a firearm, on~~  
36 ~~public elementary or secondary school premises, public school-~~  
37 ~~provided transportation, or areas of facilities while being used~~  
38 ~~exclusively by public schools.))~~

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