
HOUSE BILL 2300

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representative Hudgins

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to valuables of guests, lodgers, and boarders of
2 hotels; adding a new section to chapter 19.48 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and repealing RCW 19.48.030 and 19.48.070.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the existing
6 statutory limitations on hotel liability regarding the loss of
7 valuables and luggage do not provide adequate protections for the
8 guests, lodgers, and boarders of the hotels. The legislature finds
9 that the substance of the existing statutes was last revised over eight
10 decades ago and the caps on liability that are still in place do not
11 reflect modern society. While the protections established for hotels
12 may have made sense at that time, the legislature finds that the
13 standards of gross negligence should be replaced by a standard of
14 negligence. The legislature further finds that a guest, lodger, and
15 boarder, or any other person who the hotel has a duty to, should be
16 able to fully recover for any personal property that is lost due to the
17 negligence of a hotel. Similar to a common carrier, a hotel should not
18 be able to contractually limit liability with a guest, lodger, and
19 boarder regarding lost valuables.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.48 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) When a guest leaves baggage or property in any hotel after the
4 end of the guest's contracted stay in the hotel or sends any baggage or
5 property in advance of a stay in a hotel, the hotel may hold the
6 baggage or property. After six months from the receipt of such baggage
7 or property, a hotel may sell the baggage or property at public auction
8 as provided by law for the sale of property to satisfy a hotel keeper's
9 lien. The hotel may use the proceeds of the sale to reimburse any
10 reasonable expenses related to the advertisement and sale of the
11 property, any reasonable storage costs that may have accrued, and any
12 other amounts owed by the owner of the baggage or property to the
13 hotel.

14 (2) When any such baggage or property is received, kept, or stored
15 by a hotel, the hotel may deliver the baggage or property at any time
16 to a storage or warehouse company for storage.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
18 repealed:

19 (1) RCW 19.48.030 (Liability for loss of valuables when safe or
20 vault furnished--Limitation) and 1933 c 114 s 1, 1929 c 216 s 2, 1915
21 c 190 s 3, & 1890 p 95 s 1; and

22 (2) RCW 19.48.070 (Liability for loss of baggage and other
23 property--Limitation--Storage--Disposal) and 2011 c 336 s 541, 1929 c
24 216 s 3, 1917 c 57 s 1, & 1915 c 190 s 4.

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