

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0173

Juvenile discipline-parental obligations.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Winter, Guggenmos, Heiner,  
Knapp, Larsen, L and Ottman

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to parental liability; creating and  
2 amending provisions related to parental liability as  
3 specified; and providing for an effective date.

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5 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

6

7 **Section 1.** W.S. 14-2-203(a), 14-3-438, 14-6-242,  
8 14-6-244(b) and (d), 14-6-438, 21-4-105 and  
9 21-4-314(b)(ix), (x) and by creating a new paragraph (xi)  
10 are amended to read:

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12 **14-2-203. Parental tort liability for property damage**  
13 **of certain minors; exception; action cumulative.**

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1 (a) Any property owner, including a public school  
2 district in the state, is entitled to recover damages from  
3 the parents of any minor under the age of seventeen (17)  
4 years and over the age of ten (10) years who maliciously  
5 and willfully damages or destroys ~~his~~ the owner's property.  
6 The recovery is limited to the actual damages in an amount  
7 not to exceed ~~two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00)~~ five  
8 thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) in addition to ~~taxable~~ court  
9 costs. This section ~~does~~ shall not apply to parents whose  
10 parental custody and control of the child had been  
11 terminated by court order prior to the destructive act.

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13 **14-3-438. Liability for contempt; penalties.**

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15 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court upon  
16 its own motion or upon the motion of the district or county  
17 attorney, or guardian ad litem, may find that the child's  
18 parent, parents, or guardian or any other person who  
19 willfully violates, or neglects or refuses to obey or  
20 perform any order or provision of this act is liable for  
21 contempt of court and may be fined not more than ~~five~~  
22 ~~hundred dollars (\$500.00)~~ one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)

1 or incarcerated not more than ~~ninety (90)~~ one hundred  
2 twenty (120) days, or both.

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4 **14-6-242. Liability for contempt; penalties.**

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6 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court upon  
7 its own motion or upon the motion of the district or county  
8 attorney, or guardian ad litem, may find that the child,  
9 child's parent, parents, or guardian or any other person  
10 who willfully violates, or neglects or refuses to obey or  
11 perform any order or provision of this act is liable for  
12 contempt of court and may be fined not more than ~~five~~  
13 ~~hundred dollars (\$500.00)~~ one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)  
14 or incarcerated not more than ~~ninety (90)~~ one hundred  
15 twenty (120) days, or both.

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17 **14-6-244. Parental liability for failure to exercise**  
18 **reasonable control and authority.**

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20 (b) If the court finds at the hearing of a juvenile  
21 petition that the parent or guardian having custody of the  
22 child has failed or neglected to subject the juvenile to  
23 reasonable parental control and authority, and that such

1 failure or neglect is the proximate cause of the act or  
2 acts of the juvenile upon which a finding of delinquency is  
3 based, the court may, if the child is placed on probation,  
4 require the parent or guardian to furnish a cash deposit or  
5 bond in an amount not to exceed ~~five hundred dollars~~  
6 ~~(\$500.00)~~ one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), conditioned  
7 upon the faithful discharge of the conditions of the  
8 child's probation.

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10 (d) Funds received upon forfeiture of a cash deposit  
11 or bond under subsection (c) of this section shall be  
12 applied in payment of damages, if any, which may have been  
13 caused by the juvenile, including payment to a school  
14 district damaged by the juvenile's act or acts. The  
15 balance of the proceeds shall be retained by the court to  
16 apply to any future damages resulting from the act or acts  
17 of the juvenile until the juvenile reaches eighteen (18)  
18 years of age at which time any remaining proceeds shall be:

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20 (i) Paid into the county treasury to the credit  
21 of the public school fund of the county if the court finds  
22 that the juvenile has violated any material term of  
23 probation;

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**14-6-438. Liability for contempt; penalties.**

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(ii) Returned to the parent or guardian if the juvenile has abided by the terms of probation.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court upon its own motion or upon the motion of the district or county attorney, or guardian ad litem, may find that the child, the child's parent, parents, or guardian or any other person who willfully violates, or neglects or refuses to obey or perform any order or provision of this act is liable for contempt of court and may be fined not more than ~~five hundred dollars (\$500.00)~~ one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or incarcerated not more than ~~ninety (90)~~ one hundred twenty (120) days, or both.

**21-4-105. Penalty for failure of parent, guardian or custodian to comply with article.**

Any parent, guardian or custodian of any child to whom this article applies who willfully fails, neglects or refuses to comply with the provisions of this article may be punished

1 by not more than ~~ten (10)~~ twenty-five (25) days of  
2 community service and subject to proceedings under the  
3 Child Protection Act, W.S. 14-3-401 et seq., or the  
4 Children In Need of Supervision Act, W.S. 14-6-401 et seq.,  
5 or both.

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7 **21-4-314. School district implementation; state**  
8 **policies, training and technical assistance.**

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10 (b) The policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation  
11 or bullying shall include, without limitation:

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13 (ix) A process for discussing the district's  
14 harassment, intimidation or bullying policy with students  
15 that shall be reviewed and updated annually;~~and~~

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17 (x) A statement of how the policy is to be  
18 publicized, including notice that the policy applies to  
19 participation in functions sponsored by the school; ~~and~~ and

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21 (xi) Consequences and appropriate remedial  
22 actions, including a referral to law enforcement, for  
23 parents or guardians of minor students who have committed

1 acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying or engaged in  
2 reprisal or retaliation where the acts were, in part, a  
3 result of the parent's or guardian's neglect or refusal to  
4 discipline the minor student for the acts.

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6 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

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(END)