

1 Sponsored by: Councilmembers Paul Herrera, Marty Campbell, Amy Cruver, Robyn Denson
2 and Jani Hitchen
3 Requested by: County Council
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9 **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-38**

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18 **An Ordinance of the Pierce County Council Repealing Chapter 9.12 of the**
19 **Pierce County Code, "Attempted Suicide," Relating to the**
20 **Misdemeanor Crime of Intending to Commit Suicide.**

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22 **Whereas**, Pierce County made attempted suicide a misdemeanor in 1967, which
23 was recodified in 1984 to Section 9.12.010 of the Pierce County Code, "Penalty"; and
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25 **Whereas**, attempted suicide was a felony under Washington State law until the
26 statute was repealed in 1975; and
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28 **Whereas**, the purpose of criminalizing attempted suicide was to take a person
29 into custody to assure no further attempts, but that purpose no longer exists with the
30 enactment of the Involuntary Treatment Act (Chapter 71.05 Revised Code of
31 Washington), which provides a statutory framework for the civil investigation, evaluation,
32 detention, and commitment of an individual where, as the result of a behavioral health
33 disorder, presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm or is in imminent danger
34 because of being gravely disabled, including threats or attempts to commit suicide; and
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36 **Whereas**, in 2022 the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline implemented the 988
37 line to help those in immediate need. Individuals can call or text 988 if someone is
38 experiencing a mental health or suicide-related crisis; **Now Therefore**,

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40 **BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Pierce County:**
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1 Section 1. Chapter 9.12 of the Pierce County Code, "Attempted Suicide," is
2 hereby repealed.

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5 PASSED this 19th day of September, 2023.

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8 ATTEST:

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL
Pierce County, Washington

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11 Denise D. Johnson
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13 **Denise D. Johnson**
14 Clerk to the Council

Ryan N. Mello
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16 **Ryan N. Mello**
17 Council Chair

Bruce F. Dammeier
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19 **Bruce F. Dammeier**
20 Pierce County Executive
21 Approved Vetoed _____, this
22 21st day of September,
23 2023.

24 Date of Publication of
25 Notice of Public Hearing: September 13, 2023

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27 Effective Date of Ordinance: October 1, 2023
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