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Washington state lawmakers pass bill to limit immigration detention center

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma would not be allowed to expand under a bill that the state House of Representatives approved Wednesday. The News Tribune reports if it becomes law, HB 2640 would declare that the privately owned and operated immigration detention center is not an “essential public facility,” enabling the city of Tacoma to block further expansion of the facility, said Rep. Jake Fey, the bill’s sponsor. The GEO Group runs the facility for the U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as ICE. The House voted 85-12 to approve the bill, which moves to a Senate committee.