
HOUSE BILL 1052

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Moeller, Williams, Blake, Chase, and Kretz

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1 AN ACT Relating to firearm licenses for persons from different
2 countries; amending RCW 9.41.070 and 9.41.097; adding a new section to
3 chapter 9.41 RCW; repealing RCW 9.41.170; prescribing penalties; and
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9.41 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) It is a class C felony for a nonimmigrant alien residing in
9 Washington to carry or possess any firearm, without having first
10 obtained an alien firearm license.

11 (b) The sheriff of a county shall within sixty days after the
12 filing of an application of a nonimmigrant alien residing in the state
13 of Washington, issue an alien firearm license to such person to carry
14 or possess a firearm for the purposes of hunting and sport shooting.
15 The permit shall be good for two years or until the nonimmigrant alien
16 permanently leaves the state. The issuing authority shall not refuse
17 to accept completed applications for alien firearm licenses during
18 regular business hours. The applicant's privilege to bear arms may not

1 be denied, unless the applicant's alien firearm license is in a revoked
2 status, or the applicant:

3 (i) Is ineligible to possess a firearm under the provisions of RCW
4 9.41.040 or 9.41.045;

5 (ii) Is subject to a court order or injunction regarding firearms
6 pursuant to RCW 9A.46.080, 10.14.080, 10.99.040, 10.99.045, 26.09.050,
7 26.09.060, 26.10.040, 26.10.115, 26.26.130, 26.50.060, 26.50.070, or
8 26.26.590;

9 (iii) Is free on bond or personal recognizance pending trial,
10 appeal, or sentencing for a felony offense; or

11 (iv) Has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest from any
12 court of competent jurisdiction for a felony or misdemeanor.

13 No nonimmigrant alien convicted of a felony may have his or her
14 privilege to possess firearms granted unless the person has been
15 granted relief from disabilities by the secretary of the treasury under
16 18 U.S.C. Sec. 925(c), or unless RCW 9.41.040 (3) or (4) applies.

17 (c) The issuing authority shall check with the national crime
18 information center, the Washington state patrol electronic database,
19 the department of social and health services electronic database, and
20 with other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine whether
21 the applicant is ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 or 9.41.045 to possess
22 a firearm.

23 (d) The license application shall bear the full name, residential
24 address, telephone number at the option of the applicant, date and
25 place of birth, race, gender, description, not more than two complete
26 sets of fingerprints, and signature of the applicant, a copy of the
27 applicant's passport and visa showing the applicant is in the country
28 legally, and a valid Washington hunting license or documentation that
29 the applicant is a member of a sport shooting club.

30 A signed application for an alien firearm license shall constitute
31 a waiver of confidentiality and written request that the department of
32 social and health services, mental health institutions, and other
33 health care facilities release information relevant to the applicant's
34 eligibility for an alien firearm license to an inquiring court or law
35 enforcement agency.

36 The application for an original license shall include a complete
37 set of fingerprints to be forwarded to the Washington state patrol.

1 The license and application shall contain a warning substantially
2 as follows:

3 CAUTION: Although state and local laws do not differ, federal
4 law and state law on the possession of firearms differ. If you
5 are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you
6 may be prosecuted in federal court. A state license is not a
7 defense to a federal prosecution.

8 The license shall contain a description of the major differences
9 between state and federal law and an explanation of the fact that local
10 laws and ordinances on firearms are preempted by state law and must be
11 consistent with state law. The application shall contain questions
12 about the applicant's eligibility under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a
13 firearm. The nonimmigrant alien applicant shall be required to produce
14 a passport and visa as evidence of being in the country legally.

15 The license shall be in triplicate and in a form to be prescribed
16 by the department of licensing. The original thereof shall be
17 delivered to the licensee, the duplicate shall within seven days be
18 sent to the director of licensing and the triplicate shall be preserved
19 for six years, by the authority issuing the license.

20 The department of licensing shall make available to law enforcement
21 and corrections agencies, in an online format, all information received
22 under this subsection.

23 (e) The nonrefundable fee, paid upon application, for the two-year
24 license shall be fifty-five dollars plus additional charges imposed by
25 the federal bureau of investigation that are passed on to the
26 applicant. No other state or local branch or unit of government may
27 impose any additional charges on the applicant for the issuance of the
28 license. The fee shall be distributed as follows:

- 29 (i) Fifteen dollars shall be paid to the department of licensing;
- 30 (ii) Twenty-five dollars shall be paid to the state patrol; and
- 31 (iii) Fifteen dollars shall be paid to the issuing authority.

32 (f) Payment shall be by cash, check, or money order at the option
33 of the applicant. Additional methods of payment may be allowed at the
34 option of the issuing authority.

35 (g) A political subdivision of the state shall not modify the
36 requirements of this section or chapter, nor may a political
37 subdivision ask the applicant to voluntarily submit any information not
38 required by this section.

1 (h) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding
2 citizenship or identity on an application for an alien firearm license
3 is guilty of false swearing under RCW 9A.72.040. In addition to any
4 other penalty provided for by law, the alien firearm license of a
5 person who knowingly makes a false statement shall be revoked, and the
6 person shall be permanently ineligible for an alien firearm license.

7 (i) A nonimmigrant alien may apply for an alien firearm license to
8 the county in which the applicant resides.

9 (2) It is a class C felony for a nonimmigrant alien, who is not a
10 resident of Washington or a citizen of Canada, to carry or possess any
11 firearm unless the alien possesses:

12 (a) A valid passport and visa showing they are in the country
13 legally;

14 (b) An approved United States department of justice ATF-6 NIA
15 application and permit for temporary importation of firearms and
16 ammunition by nonimmigrant aliens; and

17 (c)(i) A valid hunting license issued by a state or territory of
18 the United States; or

19 (ii) An invitation to participate in a trade show or sport shooting
20 event.

21 (3) It is a class C felony for a citizen of Canada to carry or
22 possess any firearm unless he or she possesses:

23 (a) Valid documentation as required for entry into the United
24 States;

25 (b) An approved United States department of justice ATF-6 NIA
26 application and permit for temporary importation of firearms and
27 ammunition by nonimmigrant aliens; and

28 (c)(i) A valid hunting license issued by a state or territory of
29 the United States; or

30 (ii) An invitation to participate in a trade show or sport shooting
31 event.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9.41.070 and 2002 c 302 s 703 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 (1) The chief of police of a municipality or the sheriff of a
35 county shall within thirty days after the filing of an application of
36 any person, issue a license to such person to carry a pistol concealed
37 on his or her person within this state for five years from date of

1 issue, for the purposes of protection or while engaged in business,
2 sport, or while traveling. However, if the applicant does not have a
3 valid permanent Washington driver's license or Washington state
4 identification card or has not been a resident of the state for the
5 previous consecutive ninety days, the issuing authority shall have up
6 to sixty days after the filing of the application to issue a license.
7 The issuing authority shall not refuse to accept completed applications
8 for concealed pistol licenses during regular business hours.

9 The applicant's constitutional right to bear arms shall not be
10 denied, unless:

11 (a) He or she is ineligible to possess a firearm under the
12 provisions of RCW 9.41.040 or 9.41.045;

13 (b) The applicant's concealed pistol license is in a revoked
14 status;

15 (c) He or she is under twenty-one years of age;

16 (d) He or she is subject to a court order or injunction regarding
17 firearms pursuant to RCW 9A.46.080, 10.14.080, 10.99.040, 10.99.045,
18 26.09.050, 26.09.060, 26.10.040, 26.10.115, 26.26.130, 26.50.060,
19 26.50.070, or 26.26.590;

20 (e) He or she is free on bond or personal recognizance pending
21 trial, appeal, or sentencing for a felony offense;

22 (f) He or she has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest from
23 any court of competent jurisdiction for a felony or misdemeanor; or

24 (g) He or she has been ordered to forfeit a firearm under RCW
25 9.41.098(1)(e) within one year before filing an application to carry a
26 pistol concealed on his or her person.

27 No person convicted of a felony may have his or her right to
28 possess firearms restored or his or her privilege to carry a concealed
29 pistol restored, unless the person has been granted relief from
30 disabilities by the secretary of the treasury under 18 U.S.C. Sec.
31 925(c), or RCW 9.41.040 (3) or (4) applies.

32 (2) The issuing authority shall check with the national crime
33 information center, the Washington state patrol electronic database,
34 the department of social and health services electronic database, and
35 with other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine whether
36 the applicant is ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 or 9.41.045 to possess
37 a firearm and therefore ineligible for a concealed pistol license.

1 This subsection applies whether the applicant is applying for a new
2 concealed pistol license or to renew a concealed pistol license.

3 (3) Any person whose firearms rights have been restricted and who
4 has been granted relief from disabilities by the secretary of the
5 treasury under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 925(c) or who is exempt under 18 U.S.C.
6 Sec. 921(a)(20)(A) shall have his or her right to acquire, receive,
7 transfer, ship, transport, carry, and possess firearms in accordance
8 with Washington state law restored except as otherwise prohibited by
9 this chapter.

10 (4) The license application shall bear the full name, residential
11 address, telephone number at the option of the applicant, date and
12 place of birth, race, gender, description, (~~not more than two~~) a
13 complete set(~~s~~) of fingerprints, and signature of the licensee, and
14 the licensee's driver's license number or state identification card
15 number if used for identification in applying for the license. A
16 signed application for a concealed pistol license shall constitute a
17 waiver of confidentiality and written request that the department of
18 social and health services, mental health institutions, and other
19 health care facilities release information relevant to the applicant's
20 eligibility for a concealed pistol license to an inquiring court or law
21 enforcement agency.

22 The application for an original license shall include two complete
23 sets of fingerprints to be forwarded to the Washington state patrol.

24 The license and application shall contain a warning substantially
25 as follows:

26 CAUTION: Although state and local laws do not differ, federal
27 law and state law on the possession of firearms differ. If you
28 are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you
29 may be prosecuted in federal court. A state license is not a
30 defense to a federal prosecution.

31 The license shall contain a description of the major differences
32 between state and federal law and an explanation of the fact that local
33 laws and ordinances on firearms are preempted by state law and must be
34 consistent with state law. The application shall contain questions
35 about the applicant's eligibility under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a
36 pistol, the applicant's place of birth, and whether the applicant is a
37 United States citizen. The applicant shall not be required to produce
38 a birth certificate or other evidence of citizenship. A person who is

1 not a citizen of the United States shall meet the additional
2 requirements of (~~RCW 9.41.170~~) section 1 of this act and produce
3 proof of compliance with (~~RCW 9.41.170~~) section 1 of this act upon
4 application. The license shall be in triplicate and in a form to be
5 prescribed by the department of licensing.

6 The original thereof shall be delivered to the licensee, the
7 duplicate shall within seven days be sent to the director of licensing
8 and the triplicate shall be preserved for six years, by the authority
9 issuing the license.

10 The department of licensing shall make available to law enforcement
11 and corrections agencies, in an on-line format, all information
12 received under this subsection.

13 (5) The nonrefundable fee, paid upon application, for the original
14 five-year license shall be thirty-six dollars plus additional charges
15 imposed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation that are passed on to
16 the applicant. No other state or local branch or unit of government
17 may impose any additional charges on the applicant for the issuance of
18 the license.

19 The fee shall be distributed as follows:

20 (a) Fifteen dollars shall be paid to the state general fund;

21 (b) Four dollars shall be paid to the agency taking the
22 fingerprints of the person licensed;

23 (c) Fourteen dollars shall be paid to the issuing authority for the
24 purpose of enforcing this chapter; and

25 (d) Three dollars to the firearms range account in the general
26 fund.

27 (6) The nonrefundable fee for the renewal of such license shall be
28 thirty-two dollars. No other branch or unit of government may impose
29 any additional charges on the applicant for the renewal of the license.

30 The renewal fee shall be distributed as follows:

31 (a) Fifteen dollars shall be paid to the state general fund;

32 (b) Fourteen dollars shall be paid to the issuing authority for the
33 purpose of enforcing this chapter; and

34 (c) Three dollars to the firearms range account in the general
35 fund.

36 (7) The nonrefundable fee for replacement of lost or damaged
37 licenses is ten dollars to be paid to the issuing authority.

1 (8) Payment shall be by cash, check, or money order at the option
2 of the applicant. Additional methods of payment may be allowed at the
3 option of the issuing authority.

4 (9) A licensee may renew a license if the licensee applies for
5 renewal within ninety days before or after the expiration date of the
6 license. A license so renewed shall take effect on the expiration date
7 of the prior license. A licensee renewing after the expiration date of
8 the license must pay a late renewal penalty of ten dollars in addition
9 to the renewal fee specified in subsection (6) of this section. The
10 fee shall be distributed as follows:

11 (a) Three dollars shall be deposited in the state wildlife (~~fund~~)
12 account and used exclusively first for the printing and distribution of
13 a pamphlet on the legal limits of the use of firearms, firearms safety,
14 and the preemptive nature of state law, and subsequently the support of
15 volunteer instructors in the basic firearms safety training program
16 conducted by the department of fish and wildlife. The pamphlet shall
17 be given to each applicant for a license; and

18 (b) Seven dollars shall be paid to the issuing authority for the
19 purpose of enforcing this chapter.

20 (10) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (1) through
21 (9) of this section, the chief of police of the municipality or the
22 sheriff of the county of the applicant's residence may issue a
23 temporary emergency license for good cause pending review under
24 subsection (1) of this section. However, a temporary emergency license
25 issued under this subsection shall not exempt the holder of the license
26 from any records check requirement. Temporary emergency licenses shall
27 be easily distinguishable from regular licenses.

28 (11) A political subdivision of the state shall not modify the
29 requirements of this section or chapter, nor may a political
30 subdivision ask the applicant to voluntarily submit any information not
31 required by this section.

32 (12) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding
33 citizenship or identity on an application for a concealed pistol
34 license is guilty of false swearing under RCW 9A.72.040. In addition
35 to any other penalty provided for by law, the concealed pistol license
36 of a person who knowingly makes a false statement shall be revoked, and
37 the person shall be permanently ineligible for a concealed pistol
38 license.

- 1 (13) A person may apply for a concealed pistol license:
2 (a) To the municipality or to the county in which the applicant
3 resides if the applicant resides in a municipality;
4 (b) To the county in which the applicant resides if the applicant
5 resides in an unincorporated area; or
6 (c) Anywhere in the state if the applicant is a nonresident.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 9.41.097 and 2005 c 274 s 202 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) The department of social and health services, mental health
10 institutions, and other health care facilities shall, upon request of
11 a court or law enforcement agency, supply such relevant information as
12 is necessary to determine the eligibility of a person to possess a
13 pistol or to be issued a concealed pistol license under RCW 9.41.070 or
14 to purchase a pistol under RCW 9.41.090.

15 (2) Mental health information received by: (a) The department of
16 licensing pursuant to RCW 9.41.047 or ((9.41.170)) section 1 of this
17 act; (b) an issuing authority pursuant to RCW 9.41.047 or 9.41.070; (c)
18 a chief of police or sheriff pursuant to RCW 9.41.090 or ((9.41.170))
19 section 1 of this act; (d) a court or law enforcement agency pursuant
20 to subsection (1) of this section, shall not be disclosed except as
21 provided in RCW 42.56.240(4).

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 9.41.170 (Alien's license to carry
23 firearms--Exception) and 1996 c 295 s 11, 1994 c 190 s 1, 1979 c 158 s
24 3, 1969 ex.s. c 90 s 1, & 1953 c 109 s 1 are each repealed.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
28 immediately.

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