
SENATE BILL 5561

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Dhingra, Kuderer, Lovelett, Pedersen, Saldaña, Stanford, Van De Wege, and Wellman

Prefiled 12/20/21. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to the restoration of the right to possess a
2 firearm; amending RCW 9.41.040 and 9.41.047; adding a new section to
3 chapter 9.41 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

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

7 (1) A person who is prohibited from possession of a firearm under
8 RCW 9.41.040 and who has not been convicted or found not guilty by
9 reason of insanity of a felony sex offense; a class A felony; a
10 felony offense in which a firearm was used, displayed, or threatened
11 to be used; or a felony offense with a maximum sentence of at least
12 20 years may petition a superior court to have his or her right to
13 possess a firearm restored if:

14 (a) The person is not required to file a petition as provided in
15 RCW 9.41.047;

16 (b) The person has spent three consecutive years, immediately
17 preceding the petition, in the community without being convicted or
18 found not guilty by reason of insanity of any felony, gross
19 misdemeanor, or misdemeanor crime if the person was convicted or
20 found not guilty by reason of insanity for a nonfelony offense;

1 (c) The person has spent five consecutive years, immediately
2 preceding the petition, in the community without being convicted or
3 found not guilty by reason of insanity of any felony, gross
4 misdemeanor, or misdemeanor crime if the person was convicted or
5 found not guilty by reason of insanity of a class C felony offense;

6 (d) The person has spent 10 consecutive years, immediately
7 preceding the petition, in the community without being convicted or
8 found not guilty by reason of insanity of any felony, gross
9 misdemeanor, or misdemeanor crime if the person was convicted or
10 found not guilty by reason of insanity of a class B felony offense;

11 (e) The person has no pending charges for any felony, gross
12 misdemeanor, or misdemeanor crime;

13 (f) The person has completed any and all sentencing conditions
14 for the underlying felony or misdemeanor conviction; and

15 (g) An extreme risk, domestic violence, stalking, or sexual
16 assault protection order has not been issued against the person in
17 the five years immediately preceding the petition.

18 (2) A person who has been convicted or found not guilty by reason
19 of insanity for a felony offense in which a firearm was used,
20 displayed, or threatened to be used and who otherwise meets the
21 requirements in subsection (1) of this section may petition a
22 superior court to have his or her right to possess a firearm restored
23 when the person has spent 10 consecutive years, immediately preceding
24 the petition, in the community without being convicted or found not
25 guilty by reason of insanity of any felony, gross misdemeanor, or
26 misdemeanor crime. The court may restore the person's right to
27 possess a firearm if the petitioner shows by a preponderance of the
28 evidence that the petitioner is sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant
29 restoration.

30 (3) (a) A petition for restoration of a person's right to possess
31 a firearm shall be made to:

32 (i) The superior court that ordered the petitioner's prohibition
33 on possession of a firearm; or

34 (ii) The superior court in the county in which the petitioner
35 resides.

36 (b) If a person has multiple convictions in different counties,
37 the person must provide notice to the prosecuting attorney in each
38 county where the convictions occurred.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9.41.040 and 2021 c 215 s 72 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1)(a) A person, whether an adult or juvenile, is guilty of the
4 crime of unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree, if the
5 person owns, has in his or her possession, or has in his or her
6 control any firearm after having previously been convicted or found
7 not guilty by reason of insanity in this state or elsewhere of any
8 serious offense as defined in this chapter.

9 (b) Unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree is a
10 class B felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

11 (2)(a) A person, whether an adult or juvenile, is guilty of the
12 crime of unlawful possession of a firearm in the second degree, if
13 the person does not qualify under subsection (1) of this section for
14 the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree and
15 the person owns, has in his or her possession, or has in his or her
16 control any firearm:

17 (i) After having previously been convicted or found not guilty by
18 reason of insanity in this state or elsewhere of any felony not
19 specifically listed as prohibiting firearm possession under
20 subsection (1) of this section, or any of the following crimes when
21 committed by one family or household member against another or by one
22 intimate partner against another, committed on or after July 1, 1993:
23 Assault in the fourth degree, coercion, stalking, reckless
24 endangerment, criminal trespass in the first degree, or violation of
25 the provisions of a domestic violence protection order or no-contact
26 order restraining the person or excluding the person from a residence
27 (chapter 7.105 RCW, RCW 10.99.040, or any of the former RCW
28 26.50.060, 26.50.070, and 26.50.130);

29 (ii) After having previously been convicted or found not guilty
30 by reason of insanity in this state or elsewhere of harassment when
31 committed by one family or household member against another or by one
32 intimate partner against another, committed on or after June 7, 2018;

33 (iii) During any period of time that the person is subject to a
34 court order issued under chapter 7.105, 9A.46, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A,
35 or 26.26B RCW or any of the former chapters 7.90, 7.92, 10.14, and
36 26.50 RCW that:

37 (A) Was issued after a hearing for which the person received
38 actual notice, and at which the person had an opportunity to
39 participate, whether the court then issues a full order or reissues a
40 temporary order. If the court enters an agreed order by the parties

1 without a hearing, such an order meets the requirements of this
2 subsection;

3 (B) Restrains the person from harassing, stalking, or threatening
4 the person protected under the order or child of the person or
5 protected person, or engaging in other conduct that would place the
6 protected person in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the protected
7 person or child; and

8 (C) (I) Includes a finding that the person represents a credible
9 threat to the physical safety of the protected person or child and by
10 its terms explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened
11 use of physical force against the protected person or child that
12 would reasonably be expected to cause bodily injury; or

13 (II) Includes an order under RCW 9.41.800 requiring the person to
14 surrender all firearms and prohibiting the person from accessing,
15 having in his or her custody or control, possessing, purchasing,
16 receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, firearms;

17 (iv) After having previously been involuntarily committed based
18 on a mental disorder under RCW 71.05.240, 71.05.320, 71.34.740,
19 71.34.750, chapter 10.77 RCW, or equivalent statutes of another
20 jurisdiction, unless his or her right to possess a firearm has been
21 restored as provided in RCW 9.41.047;

22 (v) After dismissal of criminal charges based on incompetency to
23 stand trial under RCW 10.77.088 when the court has made a finding
24 indicating that the defendant has a history of one or more violent
25 acts, unless his or her right to possess a firearm has been restored
26 as provided in RCW 9.41.047;

27 (vi) If the person is under 18 years of age, except as provided
28 in RCW 9.41.042; and/or

29 (vii) If the person is free on bond or personal recognizance
30 pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a serious offense as defined
31 in RCW 9.41.010.

32 (b) Unlawful possession of a firearm in the second degree is a
33 class C felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

34 (3) (~~Notwithstanding RCW 9.41.047 or any other provisions of~~
35 ~~law, as~~) As used in this chapter, a person has been "convicted,"
36 whether in an adult court or adjudicated in a juvenile court, at such
37 time as a plea of guilty has been accepted or a verdict of guilty has
38 been filed, notwithstanding the pendency of any future proceedings
39 including, but not limited to, sentencing or disposition, post-trial
40 or post-fact-finding motions, and appeals. Conviction includes a

1 dismissal entered after a period of probation, suspension, or
2 deferral of sentence, and also includes equivalent dispositions by
3 courts in jurisdictions other than Washington state. A person shall
4 not be precluded from possession of a firearm if the conviction has
5 been the subject of a pardon, annulment, certificate of
6 rehabilitation, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of
7 the rehabilitation of the person convicted or the conviction or
8 disposition has been the subject of a pardon, annulment, or other
9 equivalent procedure based on a finding of innocence. Where no record
10 of the court's disposition of the charges can be found, there shall
11 be a rebuttable presumption that the person was not convicted of the
12 charge.

13 (4) ~~((a))~~ Notwithstanding subsection (1) or (2) of this section,
14 a person convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of an
15 offense prohibiting the possession of a firearm under this section
16 other than murder, manslaughter, robbery, rape, indecent liberties,
17 arson, assault, kidnapping, extortion, burglary, or violations with
18 respect to controlled substances under RCW 69.50.401 and 69.50.410,
19 who received a probationary sentence under RCW 9.95.200, and who
20 received a dismissal of the charge under RCW 9.95.240, shall not be
21 precluded from possession of a firearm as a result of the conviction
22 or finding of not guilty by reason of insanity. ~~((Notwithstanding any
23 other provisions of this section, if a person is prohibited from
24 possession of a firearm under subsection (1) or (2) of this section
25 and has not previously been convicted or found not guilty by reason
26 of insanity of a sex offense prohibiting firearm ownership under
27 subsection (1) or (2) of this section and/or any felony defined under
28 any law as a class A felony or with a maximum sentence of at least 20
29 years, or both, the individual may petition a court of record to have
30 his or her right to possess a firearm restored:~~

31 ~~(i) Under RCW 9.41.047; and/or~~

32 ~~(ii) (A) If the conviction or finding of not guilty by reason of
33 insanity was for a felony offense, after five or more consecutive
34 years in the community without being convicted or found not guilty by
35 reason of insanity or currently charged with any felony, gross
36 misdemeanor, or misdemeanor crimes, if the individual has no prior
37 felony convictions that prohibit the possession of a firearm counted
38 as part of the offender score under RCW 9.94A.525; or~~

39 ~~(B) If the conviction or finding of not guilty by reason of
40 insanity was for a nonfelony offense, after three or more consecutive~~

1 ~~years in the community without being convicted or found not guilty by~~
2 ~~reason of insanity or currently charged with any felony, gross~~
3 ~~misdemeanor, or misdemeanor crimes, if the individual has no prior~~
4 ~~felony convictions that prohibit the possession of a firearm counted~~
5 ~~as part of the offender score under RCW 9.94A.525 and the individual~~
6 ~~has completed all conditions of the sentence.~~

7 ~~(b) An individual may petition a court of record to have his or~~
8 ~~her right to possess a firearm restored under (a) of this subsection~~
9 ~~only at:~~

10 ~~(i) The court of record that ordered the petitioner's prohibition~~
11 ~~on possession of a firearm; or~~

12 ~~(ii) The superior court in the county in which the petitioner~~
13 ~~resides.)~~

14 (5) In addition to any other penalty provided for by law, if a
15 person under the age of 18 years is found by a court to have
16 possessed a firearm in a vehicle in violation of subsection (1) or
17 (2) of this section or to have committed an offense while armed with
18 a firearm during which offense a motor vehicle served an integral
19 function, the court shall notify the department of licensing within
20 24 hours and the person's privilege to drive shall be revoked under
21 RCW 46.20.265, unless the offense is the juvenile's first offense in
22 violation of this section and has not committed an offense while
23 armed with a firearm, an unlawful possession of a firearm offense, or
24 an offense in violation of chapter 66.44, 69.52, 69.41, or 69.50 RCW.

25 (6) Nothing in chapter 129, Laws of 1995 shall ever be construed
26 or interpreted as preventing an offender from being charged and
27 subsequently convicted for the separate felony crimes of theft of a
28 firearm or possession of a stolen firearm, or both, in addition to
29 being charged and subsequently convicted under this section for
30 unlawful possession of a firearm in the first or second degree.
31 Notwithstanding any other law, if the offender is convicted under
32 this section for unlawful possession of a firearm in the first or
33 second degree and for the felony crimes of theft of a firearm or
34 possession of a stolen firearm, or both, then the offender shall
35 serve consecutive sentences for each of the felony crimes of
36 conviction listed in this subsection.

37 (7) Each firearm unlawfully possessed under this section shall be
38 a separate offense.

39 (8) A person may petition to restore the right to possess a
40 firearm as provided in section 1 of this act.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 9.41.047 and 2020 c 302 s 60 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1)(a) At the time a person is convicted or found not guilty by
4 reason of insanity of an offense making the person ineligible to
5 possess a firearm, or at the time a person is committed by court
6 order under RCW 71.05.240, 71.05.320, 71.34.740, 71.34.750, or
7 chapter 10.77 RCW for mental health treatment, or at the time that
8 charges are dismissed based on incompetency to stand trial under RCW
9 10.77.088 and the court makes a finding that the person has a history
10 of one or more violent acts, the ~~((convicting or committing court,~~
11 ~~or))~~ court ~~((that dismisses charges,))~~ shall notify the person,
12 orally and in writing, that the person must immediately surrender all
13 firearms and any concealed pistol license and that the person may not
14 possess a firearm unless his or her right to do so is restored by a
15 superior court ~~((of record. For purposes of this section a convicting~~
16 ~~court includes a court in which a person has been found not guilty by~~
17 ~~reason of insanity))~~.

18 (b) The court shall forward within three judicial days after
19 conviction, finding of not guilty by reason of insanity, entry of the
20 commitment order, or dismissal of charges, a copy of the person's
21 driver's license or identicard, or comparable information such as
22 ~~((their))~~ the person's name, address, and date of birth, along with
23 the date of conviction or commitment, or date charges are dismissed,
24 to the department of licensing. When a person is committed by court
25 order under RCW 71.05.240, 71.05.320, 71.34.740, 71.34.750, or
26 chapter 10.77 RCW, for mental health treatment, or when a person's
27 charges are dismissed based on incompetency to stand trial under RCW
28 10.77.088 and the court makes a finding that the person has a history
29 of one or more violent acts, the court also shall forward, within
30 three judicial days after entry of the commitment order, or dismissal
31 of charges, a copy of the person's driver's license, or comparable
32 information, along with the date of commitment or date charges are
33 dismissed, to the national instant criminal background check system
34 index, denied persons file, created by the federal Brady handgun
35 violence prevention act (P.L. 103-159) and to the Washington state
36 patrol. The petitioning party shall provide the court with the
37 information required. If more than one commitment order is entered
38 under one cause number, only one notification to the department of
39 licensing and the national instant criminal background check system
40 is required.

1 (2) Upon receipt of the information provided for by subsection
2 (1) of this section, the department of licensing shall determine if
3 the (~~convicted or committed~~) person(~~, or the person whose charges~~
4 ~~are dismissed based on incompetency to stand trial,~~) has a concealed
5 pistol license. If the person (~~does have~~) has a concealed pistol
6 license, the department of licensing shall immediately notify the
7 license-issuing authority which, upon receipt of such notification,
8 shall immediately revoke the license.

9 (3) (a) A person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm, by
10 reason of having been involuntarily committed for mental health
11 treatment under RCW 71.05.240, 71.05.320, 71.34.740, 71.34.750,
12 chapter 10.77 RCW, or equivalent statutes of another jurisdiction, or
13 by reason of having been detained under RCW 71.05.150 or 71.05.153,
14 or because the person's charges were dismissed based on incompetency
15 to stand trial under RCW 10.77.088 and the court made a finding that
16 the person has a history of one or more violent acts, may, upon
17 discharge, petition the superior court to have his or her right to
18 possess a firearm restored.

19 (b) The petition must be brought in the superior court that
20 ordered the involuntary commitment or dismissed the charges based on
21 incompetency to stand trial or the superior court of the county in
22 which the petitioner resides.

23 (c) Except as provided in (d) and (e) of this subsection, the
24 court shall restore the petitioner's right to possess a firearm if
25 the petitioner proves by a preponderance of the evidence that:

26 (i) The petitioner is no longer required to participate in court-
27 ordered inpatient or outpatient treatment;

28 (ii) The petitioner has successfully managed the condition
29 related to the commitment or detention or incompetency;

30 (iii) The petitioner no longer presents a substantial danger to
31 himself or herself, or the public; and

32 (iv) The symptoms related to the commitment or detention or
33 incompetency are not reasonably likely to recur.

34 (d) If a preponderance of the evidence in the record supports a
35 finding that the person petitioning the court has engaged in violence
36 and that it is more likely than not that the person will engage in
37 violence after his or her right to possess a firearm is restored, the
38 person shall bear the burden of proving by clear, cogent, and
39 convincing evidence that he or she does not present a substantial
40 danger to the safety of others.

1 (e) If the petitioner seeks restoration after having been
2 detained under RCW 71.05.150 or 71.05.153, the state shall bear the
3 burden of proof to show, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the
4 petitioner does not meet the restoration criteria in (c) of this
5 subsection.

6 (f) When a person's right to possess a firearm has been restored
7 under this subsection, the court shall forward, within three judicial
8 days after entry of the restoration order, notification that the
9 person's right to possess a firearm has been restored to the
10 department of licensing with a copy of the person's driver's license
11 or identicard, or comparable identification such as ~~((their))~~ the
12 person's name, address, and date of birth, the health care authority,
13 and the national instant criminal background check system index,
14 denied persons file. In the case of a person whose right to possess a
15 firearm has been suspended for six months as provided in RCW
16 71.05.182, the department of licensing shall forward notification of
17 the restoration order to the licensing authority, which, upon receipt
18 of such notification, shall immediately lift the suspension,
19 restoring the license.

20 (4) No person who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity
21 may petition a court for restoration of the right to possess a
22 firearm unless the person meets the requirements for the restoration
23 of the right to possess a firearm under ~~((RCW 9.41.040(4)))~~ section
24 1(1) (b) through (g) of this act.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect July 1, 2022.

--- END ---