

---

SENATE BILL 5561

---

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Hochstatter, Schow, Johnson, Finkbeiner, Morton, Oke and McDonald

Read first time 01/26/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to firearm range training and practice facilities;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 9.41 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that in  
5 the best interest of public safety, due to the advent of urban growth,  
6 it is essential for facilities to be available to the general public  
7 for safe utilization of firearms.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9.41 RCW  
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) Except as provided for in subsection (2) of this section, a  
11 local governmental entity as defined by RCW 4.96.010 may not take  
12 action to close a privately owned and operated firearm range training  
13 and practice facility. As used in this section, to "take action" means  
14 exercising any of the police or other powers of the local governmental  
15 entity, including but not limited to the following:

- 16 (a) Declaration or abatement of a nuisance;  
17 (b) Establishment of nonconforming land uses;

1 (c) Enforcement of land use regulations regarding conditional or  
2 special use requirements; or

3 (d) Condemnation proceedings.

4 (2)(a) A local governmental entity may take action to close a  
5 privately owned and operated firearm range training and practice  
6 facility if the local governmental entity provides for the availability  
7 of suitable land for the replacement of the closed facility with  
8 another privately owned and operated firearm range training and  
9 practice facility of at least equal capacity. If a local governmental  
10 entity's action results in the closure of more than one firearm range  
11 training and practice facility, the local governmental entity may  
12 provide for the availability of suitable land for the replacement of  
13 the closed facilities with one or more firearm range training and  
14 practice facilities, so long as the capacity of the replacement  
15 facility or facilities is at least as large as the combined capacities  
16 of the closed facilities.

17 (b) As used in this section, "suitable land" means land that is  
18 within the local governmental entity's jurisdiction, or within the  
19 jurisdiction of an adjoining jurisdiction with which an interlocal  
20 agreement has been reached, and that is:

21 (i) Not currently used as a firearm range training and practice  
22 facility, but is available to an operator of such a facility at a cost,  
23 including any necessary site preparation and development costs, not to  
24 exceed the value of the facility or facilities to be closed;

25 (ii) Of sufficient size and of appropriate topography to  
26 accommodate the required replacement facility;

27 (iii) Appropriately zoned for use as a firearm range training and  
28 practice facility; and

29 (iv) Reasonably equivalent to the location of the existing facility  
30 or facilities with respect to accessibility and proximity for the users  
31 of the existing facility or facilities, but in no event more than  
32 fifteen miles from the location of any facility being replaced.

33 (c) A replacement firearm range training and practice facility must  
34 be available for use by law enforcement personnel or the general public  
35 to the same extent as the replaced facility or facilities.

--- END ---