

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

HB 1406

Title: An act relating to records of pistol purchases or transfers.

Brief Description: Eliminating the authority of the department of licensing to keep records of pistol purchases or transfers.

Sponsors: Representatives McMorris, Constantine, Sump, Lantz, Pennington, Kastama, Carrell, Thomas, B. Chandler, Boldt, Mielke, Mulliken, Dunn, Haigh, Benson and Schindler.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes the authority of the Department of Licensing to maintain records of pistol purchases.
- Removes requirement that firearms dealers send copies of paperwork on pistol purchases to the Department of Licensing.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Staff: Bill Perry (786-7123).

Background:

Under the state's firearms law, records of certain transactions involving firearms are maintained by the Department of Licensing (DOL).

Among the records that the DOL maintains are applications for concealed pistol licenses, applications for alien firearm licenses, applications to purchase pistols, and records of pistol transfers. Generally, these records are exempt from the public records law and may be released only to law enforcement agencies or the Department of Corrections.

Issuers of pistol or alien firearm licenses and dealers who sell or transfer pistols are required to send copies of the records of these transactions to the DOL. Dealers are also required to send copies of records of pistol sales to the local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction in which the purchaser lives. Dealers are required to keep copies for at least six years.

Since 1994, the DOL has been storing these records in their original form, but has not been filing them in a searchable data base.

Summary of Bill:

The authority of the DOL to maintain records of applications to purchase pistols and of pistol sales and transfers is removed. Dealers are no longer required to send copies of the records of such transactions to the DOL. Copies must still be sent to local law enforcement agencies and kept by the dealers.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.