

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2863**

---

**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives McMorris, Cody, Horn, Conway, Carrell, Sheldon, Smith, Sterk, Morris, Fuhrman and Pelesky)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding days of sale while not changing days  
2 of use of common fireworks and clarifying other provisions of the  
3 existing state fireworks law; amending RCW 70.77.255, 70.77.270,  
4 70.77.325, 70.77.395, 70.77.420, 70.77.425, and 70.77.555; adding a new  
5 section to chapter 70.77 RCW; prescribing penalties; and declaring an  
6 emergency.

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

8 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.77.255 and 1995 c 61 s 13 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person,  
11 without ~~((an))~~ appropriate state licenses and city or county permits as  
12 required may:

13 (a) Manufacture, import, possess, or sell any fireworks at  
14 wholesale or retail for any use;

15 (b) Make a public display of fireworks; ~~((or))~~

16 (c) Transport fireworks, except as a public carrier delivering to  
17 a licensee; or

1        (d) Knowingly manufacture, import, transport, store, sell, or  
2 possess with intent to sell, as fireworks, explosives, as defined under  
3 RCW 70.74.010, that are not fireworks, as defined under this chapter.

4        (2) Except as authorized by a license and permit under subsection  
5 (1)(b) of this section or as provided in RCW 70.77.311, no person may  
6 discharge special fireworks at any place.

7        (3) No person less than eighteen years of age may apply for or  
8 receive a license or permit under this chapter.

9        (4) No license or permit is required for the possession or use of  
10 common fireworks lawfully purchased at retail.

11        NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 70.77 RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13        (1) A violation of RCW 70.77.255(1)(d) is a gross misdemeanor  
14 punishable by not less than thirty days in jail and a fine of not less  
15 than five thousand dollars.

16        (2) The minimum sentences required under subsection (1) of this  
17 section may not be suspended or deferred.

18        **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.77.270 and 1995 c 61 s 14 are each amended to read  
19 as follows:

20        (1) The governing body of a city or county shall grant an  
21 application for ((a)) an annual permit under RCW 70.77.260(1), within  
22 thirty days of receipt, if the application meets the standards under  
23 this chapter, and the applicable ordinances of the city or county.

24        (2) The ((director of community, trade, and economic development))  
25 chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire  
26 protection, shall prescribe uniform, state-wide standards for retail  
27 fireworks stands. All cities and counties which allow retail fireworks  
28 sales shall comply with these standards.

29        (3) No retail fireworks permit may be issued to any applicant  
30 unless the retail fireworks stand is covered by a liability insurance  
31 policy with coverage of not less than fifty thousand dollars and five  
32 hundred thousand dollars for bodily injury liability for each person  
33 and occurrence, respectively, and not less than fifty thousand dollars  
34 for property damage liability for each occurrence, unless such  
35 insurance is not readily available from at least three approved  
36 insurance companies. If insurance in this amount is not offered, each  
37 fireworks permit shall be covered by a liability insurance policy in

1 the maximum amount offered by at least three different approved  
2 insurance companies.

3 No wholesaler may knowingly sell or supply fireworks to any retail  
4 fireworks stand unless the wholesaler determines that the retail  
5 fireworks stand is covered by liability insurance in the same amount as  
6 provided in this subsection.

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.77.325 and 1994 c 133 s 8 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 (1) An application for a license shall be made annually by every  
10 person holding an existing license who wishes to continue the activity  
11 requiring the license during an additional calendar year. The  
12 application shall be accompanied by the annual license fees as  
13 prescribed in RCW 70.77.343 and 70.77.340.

14 (2) A person applying for an annual license as a retailer under  
15 this chapter shall file an application by ~~((June 10))~~ May 1 of the  
16 current year. The ~~((director of community, trade, and economic  
17 development))~~ chief of the Washington state patrol, through the  
18 director of fire protection, shall grant or deny the license within  
19 fifteen days of receipt of the application.

20 (3) A person applying for an annual license as a manufacturer,  
21 importer, or wholesaler under this chapter shall file an application by  
22 January 31 of the current year. The ~~((director of community, trade,  
23 and economic development))~~ chief of the Washington state patrol,  
24 through the director of fire protection, shall grant or deny the  
25 license within ninety days of receipt of the application.

26 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.77.395 and 1995 c 61 s 22 are each amended to read  
27 as follows:

28 (1) It is legal to sell~~((,))~~ and purchase~~((, use, and discharge))~~  
29 common fireworks within this state from ~~((twelve))~~ nine o'clock  
30 ~~((noon))~~ a.m. on the twenty-eighth of June to twelve o'clock noon on  
31 the sixth of July of each year, from nine o'clock a.m. on the twenty-  
32 seventh of December to eleven o'clock p.m. on the thirty-first of  
33 December of each year and as provided in RCW 70.77.311. ~~((However,~~  
34 ~~no))~~

35 (2) Common fireworks may be ~~((sold))~~ used or discharged each day  
36 between the hours of nine o'clock a.m. and eleven o'clock p.m. ~~((and~~  
37 nine o'clock a.m.)) on the twenty-eighth of June to the sixth of July,

1 (~~except~~) and on July 4th (~~from~~) between the hours of nine o'clock  
2 a.m. (~~through~~) and twelve o'clock midnight, and (~~except~~) from six  
3 o'clock p.m. on December 31st until one o'clock a.m. on January 1st of  
4 the subsequent year and as provided in RCW 70.77.311: PROVIDED, That  
5 a city or county may prohibit the sale or discharge of common fireworks  
6 on December 31, 1995, by enacting an ordinance prohibiting such sale or  
7 discharge within sixty days of April 17, 1995.

8 **Sec. 6.** RCW 70.77.420 and 1984 c 249 s 26 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 (1) It is unlawful for any person to store fireworks of any class  
11 without a permit for such storage from the local fire official in the  
12 jurisdiction in which the storage is to be made. A person proposing to  
13 store fireworks shall apply in writing to a local fire official at  
14 least ten days prior to the date of the proposed storage. The official  
15 receiving the application for a storage permit shall investigate  
16 whether the character and location of the storage as proposed would  
17 constitute a hazard to property or be dangerous to any person. Based  
18 on the investigation, the official may grant or deny the application.  
19 The official may place reasonable conditions on any permit granted.

20 (2) For the purposes of this section the temporary storing or  
21 keeping of common fireworks when in conjunction with a valid retail  
22 sales license and permit shall comply with the standards adopted under  
23 RCW 70.77.270(2) and not this section.

24 **Sec. 7.** RCW 70.77.425 and 1984 c 249 s 27 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26 It is unlawful for any person to store unsold stocks of fireworks  
27 remaining unsold after the lawful period of sale as provided in the  
28 person's permit except in such places of storage as the local fire  
29 official issuing the permit approves. Unsold stocks of common  
30 fireworks remaining after the authorized retail sales period from  
31 (~~twelve~~) nine o'clock (~~noon~~) a.m. on June 28th to twelve o'clock  
32 noon on July 6th shall be returned on or before July 31st of the same  
33 year, or remaining after the authorized retail sales period from nine  
34 o'clock a.m. on December 27th to eleven o'clock p.m. on December 31st  
35 shall be returned on or before January 10th of the same year to the  
36 approved storage facilities of a licensed fireworks wholesaler, to a  
37 magazine or storage place approved by a local fire official.

1       **Sec. 8.** RCW 70.77.555 and 1995 c 61 s 26 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) A (~~local public agency~~) city or county may provide by  
4 ordinance for a fee for retail sales in an amount sufficient to cover  
5 all legitimate costs for all needed permits and local licenses from  
6 application to and through processing, issuance, and inspection, but in  
7 no case to exceed a total of one hundred dollars for any one year.

8       Even though business, environmental impact, inspection, and all  
9 other required costs, fees, local licenses, and permits are not  
10 directly related to fireworks permits, fees, costs, and local licenses  
11 on their face; when these fees, costs, local licenses, and permits are  
12 necessary to the use and operation of the fireworks permits and local  
13 licenses such as, but not limited to, business, environmental impact,  
14 and inspection; they are included as part and parcel of the one hundred  
15 dollar annual maximum fees, under subsection (1) of this section, that  
16 cover costs for the fireworks permits and local licenses.

17       (2) A city or county may provide by ordinance for a fee for public  
18 displays in an amount sufficient to cover all legitimate costs for all  
19 needed permits and local licenses from application to and through  
20 processing, issuance, and inspection, but in no case to exceed a total  
21 of three hundred dollars for any one year.

22       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
24 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
25 effect immediately.

26       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** If any provision of this act or its  
27 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
28 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
29 persons or circumstances is not affected.

--- END ---