
SENATE BILL 5944

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Pelz and C. Anderson

Read first time 02/15/95. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to local regulation of firearms in municipal
2 offices and meeting areas; and amending RCW 9.41.300.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9.41.300 and 1994 sp.s. c 7 s 429 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) It is unlawful for any person to enter the following places
7 when he or she knowingly possesses or knowingly has under his or her
8 control a weapon:

9 (a) The restricted access areas of a jail, or of a law enforcement
10 facility, or any place used for the confinement of a person (i)
11 arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense, (ii) held for
12 extradition or as a material witness, or (iii) otherwise confined
13 pursuant to an order of a court, except an order under chapter 13.32A
14 or 13.34 RCW. Restricted access areas do not include common areas of
15 egress or ingress open to the general public;

16 (b) Those areas in any building which are used in connection with
17 court proceedings, including courtrooms, jury rooms, judge's chambers,
18 offices and areas used to conduct court business, waiting areas, and
19 corridors adjacent to areas used in connection with court proceedings.

1 The restricted areas do not include common areas of ingress and egress
2 to the building that is used in connection with court proceedings, when
3 it is possible to protect court areas without restricting ingress and
4 egress to the building. The restricted areas shall be the minimum
5 necessary to fulfill the objective of this subsection (1)(b).

6 In addition, the local legislative authority shall provide either
7 a stationary locked box sufficient in size for pistols and key to a
8 weapon owner for weapon storage, or shall designate an official to
9 receive weapons for safekeeping, during the owner's visit to restricted
10 areas of the building. The locked box or designated official shall be
11 located within the same building used in connection with court
12 proceedings. The local legislative authority shall be liable for any
13 negligence causing damage to or loss of a weapon either placed in a
14 locked box or left with an official during the owner's visit to
15 restricted areas of the building.

16 The local judicial authority shall designate and clearly mark those
17 areas where weapons are prohibited, and shall post notices at each
18 entrance to the building of the prohibition against weapons in the
19 restricted areas;

20 (c) The restricted access areas of a public mental health facility
21 certified by the department of social and health services for inpatient
22 hospital care and state institutions for the care of the mentally ill,
23 excluding those facilities solely for evaluation and treatment.
24 Restricted access areas do not include common areas of egress and
25 ingress open to the general public; or

26 (d) That portion of an establishment classified by the state liquor
27 control board as off-limits to persons under twenty-one years of age.

28 (2) Cities, towns, counties, and other municipalities may enact
29 laws and ordinances:

30 (a) Restricting the discharge of firearms in any portion of their
31 respective jurisdictions where there is a reasonable likelihood that
32 humans, domestic animals, or property will be jeopardized. Such laws
33 and ordinances shall not abridge the right of the individual guaranteed
34 by Article I, section 24 of the state Constitution to bear arms in
35 defense of self or others; ((and))

36 (b) Restricting the possession of firearms in council chambers and
37 meeting rooms where the local legislative body or its committees meet,
38 or offices and areas used by the local government to conduct its
39 business including transactions with the public. The restricted areas

1 may not include common areas of ingress or egress to the building
2 unless all building areas are restricted under this section.

3 In addition, the local legislative authority shall provide either
4 a stationary locked box sufficient in size for pistols and key to a
5 weapon owner for weapon storage, or shall designate an official to
6 receive weapons for safekeeping, during the owner's visit to restricted
7 areas of the building. The locked box or designated official shall be
8 located within the same building used in connection with court
9 proceedings. The local legislative authority shall be liable for any
10 negligence causing damage to or loss of a weapon either placed in a
11 locked box or left with an official during the owner's visit to
12 restricted areas of the building.

13 The local judicial authority shall designate and clearly mark those
14 areas where weapons are prohibited, and shall post notices at each
15 entrance to the building of the prohibition against weapons in the
16 restricted areas; and

17 (c) Restricting the possession of firearms in any stadium or
18 convention center, operated by a city, town, county, or other
19 municipality, except that such restrictions shall not apply to:

20 (i) Any pistol in the possession of a person licensed under RCW
21 9.41.070 or exempt from the licensing requirement by RCW 9.41.060; or

22 (ii) Any showing, demonstration, or lecture involving the
23 exhibition of firearms.

24 (3)(a) Cities, towns, and counties may enact ordinances restricting
25 the areas in their respective jurisdictions in which firearms may be
26 sold, but, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a business
27 selling firearms may not be treated more restrictively than other
28 businesses located within the same zone. An ordinance requiring the
29 cessation of business within a zone shall not have a shorter
30 grandfather period for businesses selling firearms than for any other
31 businesses within the zone.

32 (b) Cities, towns, and counties may restrict the location of a
33 business selling firearms to not less than five hundred feet from
34 primary or secondary school grounds, if the business has a storefront,
35 has hours during which it is open for business, and posts
36 advertisements or signs observable to passersby that firearms are
37 available for sale. A business selling firearms that exists as of the
38 date a restriction is enacted under this subsection (3)(b) shall be
39 grandfathered according to existing law.

1 (4) Violations of local ordinances adopted under subsection (2) of
2 this section must have the same penalty as provided for by state law.

3 (5) The perimeter of the premises of any specific location covered
4 by subsection (1) of this section shall be posted at reasonable
5 intervals to alert the public as to the existence of any law
6 restricting the possession of firearms on the premises.

7 (6) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

8 (a) A person engaged in military activities sponsored by the
9 federal or state governments, while engaged in official duties;

10 (b) Law enforcement personnel; or

11 (c) Security personnel while engaged in official duties.

12 (7) Subsection (1)(a) of this section does not apply to a person
13 licensed pursuant to RCW 9.41.070 who, upon entering the place or
14 facility, directly and promptly proceeds to the administrator of the
15 facility or the administrator's designee and obtains written permission
16 to possess the firearm while on the premises or checks his or her
17 firearm. The person may reclaim the firearms upon leaving but must
18 immediately and directly depart from the place or facility.

19 (8) Subsection (1)(c) of this section does not apply to any
20 administrator or employee of the facility or to any person who, upon
21 entering the place or facility, directly and promptly proceeds to the
22 administrator of the facility or the administrator's designee and
23 obtains written permission to possess the firearm while on the
24 premises.

25 (9) Subsection (1)(d) of this section does not apply to the
26 proprietor of the premises or his or her employees while engaged in
27 their employment.

28 (10) Any person violating subsection (1) of this section is guilty
29 of a gross misdemeanor.

30 (11) "Weapon" as used in this section means any firearm, explosive
31 as defined in RCW 70.74.010, or instrument or weapon listed in RCW
32 9.41.250.

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