

SHB 1240 - S AMD TO LAW COMM AMD (S-2726.1/23) 362  
By Senator Fortunato

NOT ADOPTED 04/08/2023

1 Beginning on page 1, line 3, strike all of section 1 and insert  
2 the following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to instill a fear  
4 of firearms in the populace based off the shape and color of the  
5 firearm instead of any measurable difference in actual accuracy,  
6 capacity, or versatility. The lethal effects of the misuse of  
7 firearms are attributed to the style and shape of the firearms in  
8 addition to accessories that can be attached to the firearm. These  
9 attributes are utilized to describe the lethality of the actions of  
10 people who utilize these firearms for nefarious purposes by  
11 individuals and organizations that are strongly opposed to possession  
12 of firearms. These individuals and organizations attribute lethal  
13 characteristics to commonly used accessories and components in an  
14 effort to instill and encourage the fear of inanimate objects and  
15 detract focus from the cause of firearm violence, the mental status  
16 of the firearms user.

17 Violence accomplished with firearms has been exploited to create  
18 an atmosphere of fear surrounding the existence and legality of  
19 firearm possession. A desire to protect society and prevent future  
20 violence has led to a desire to ban firearms, their components, and  
21 accessories. Because of the strikingly similar assault weapons ban  
22 from 1994 to 2004, there is an opportunity to examine data that can  
23 support or refute claims that banning certain firearm accessories  
24 reduce the lethality of mass shootings. An examination of that  
25 evidence finds that both the federal assault weapons ban and several  
26 state assault weapons bans have had inconclusive effects on reducing  
27 violence. Many of the studies that do indicate a positive link do not  
28 take into consideration gang violence and manipulate the data to  
29 prove a reduction in violence.

30 In the United States, there are approximately 393 million  
31 civilian owned firearms, with roughly 20 million of those being AR-15  
32 style firearms. In Washington state, 42 percent of Washington state  
33 residents live in households with guns and there are less than

1 100,000 registered firearms in the state. The legislature intends to  
2 exert control over the future purchase of a certain type of firearm  
3 without addressing the safety of the most treasured members of our  
4 society by providing school safety officers.

5 According to the 2018 mass shootings work group, funding school  
6 resource officers, multistage threat assessment processes implemented  
7 in education facilities, extreme risk protection orders, and  
8 increased investment in mental health professionals were the most  
9 important policy recommendations that would prevent future mass  
10 shootings. The legislature finds that this legislation which limits  
11 what law abiding citizens may possess will not protect anyone's  
12 children. Focusing on who is using firearms to commit violent crimes,  
13 why they are committing these crimes, and how to protect children  
14 would accomplish much more."

EFFECT: Strikes and replaces the intent section.

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