

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**SHB 1900**

**AS OF APRIL 1, 1991**

**Brief Description:** Providing protection for children from firearms.

**SPONSORS:** House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Scott, Cole, Roland, Ludwig, Forner, Wineberry, Locke, Appelwick, H. Myers, Rasmussen, Wang, Wynne and Anderson).

**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE**

**Staff:** Jon Carlson (786-7459)

**Hearing Dates:** April 3, 1991

**BACKGROUND:**

A legal owner of a firearm has no statutory duty against leaving firearms where a child may gain access. Dealers are not required to offer safety devices for firearms.

**SUMMARY:**

It is a gross misdemeanor for an owner of a firearm to leave a loaded firearm, or an unloaded firearm that is accompanied by ammunition, where a child is likely to gain access to it. To be liable, the owner must have known, or reasonably should have known, that a child probably would gain access to the firearm. Various exceptions are provided to the prohibition against allowing access to a firearm. The prohibition does not apply to firearms secured with a trigger lock, or to access gained by trespassing, or to a child with a valid hunting license.

A violator of this act may be fined not more than \$5,000 and imprisoned for not more than one year.

Licensed firearms dealers must offer a trigger lock with each sale. They must also post a sign warning buyers that it is unlawful to store or leave an unlocked firearm where children can obtain access.

A dealer who violates this section is subject to a \$500 fine.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested

