

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**SB 5051**

**AS OF JANUARY 31, 1991**

**Brief Description:** Prohibiting firearms in state capitol buildings.

**SPONSORS:** Senators Newhouse, Rasmussen, Nelson, Talmadge, A. Smith and Conner; by request of Washington State Patrol.

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE**

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

**Hearing Dates:** February 5, 1991

**BACKGROUND:**

The capitol campus is the frequent site of public demonstrations. In addition, both houses of the Legislature are open to the public during legislative sessions. On occasion, controversial issues may draw individuals who threaten to disrupt the orderly legislative process. Current administrative regulations prohibit the possession of firearms or dangerous weapons on the capitol campus or legislative buildings. However, a violation of this prohibition constitutes a traffic infraction, and does not empower law enforcement with arrest authority.

Legislation is suggested which would enable Capitol Security to arrest and remove spectators or demonstrators found to be illegally carrying a firearm in government buildings on west state capitol grounds.

**SUMMARY:**

A person may not possess, carry, transport, or convey any firearm while in certain government buildings located on the west state capitol campus grounds. A violation of this provision is a misdemeanor.

This prohibition does not apply to any person who has a valid concealed pistol license and notifies the Washington State Patrol that he or she is in possession of a concealed weapon.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested