

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESSB 5825

AS PASSED SENATE, MARCH 15, 1991

Brief Description: Restricting offenders' possession of firearms.

SPONSORS: Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Nelson, Madsen, Thorsness, Erwin, Rasmussen, Oke and L. Kreidler; by request of Department of Corrections).

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5825 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Nelson, Chairman; Thorsness, Vice Chairman; Erwin, Hayner, L. Kreidler, Madsen, Newhouse, Rasmussen, and A. Smith.

Staff: Jon Carlson (786-7459)

Hearing Dates: March 4, 1991; March 5, 1991

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Corrections' community corrections officers currently supervise felon offenders in the community with increased emphasis on home and field contacts. These officers are finding that a growing number of the offenders under supervision are in possession of firearms or ammunition in violation of state and/or federal law. Concerned with community and officer safety, the Department of Corrections recommends that offenders under supervision be prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition.

SUMMARY:

As a sentence condition and requirement, offenders sentenced to terms involving community supervision, community service, or community placement under the Department of Corrections may not own, use, or possess firearms or ammunition.

Offenders found in actual or constructive possession of firearms or ammunition are subject to the appropriate violation process and sanctions.

Firearms or ammunition owned, used, or possessed by offenders may be confiscated by community corrections officers and turned over to local law enforcement agencies for disposal as provided by law.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested

TESTIMONY FOR:

Prohibiting the offender's possession of firearms and ammunition addresses the Department of Corrections' concern with regard to community and officer safety.

TESTIMONY AGAINST: None

TESTIFIED: Dave Savage, Department of Corrections (pro); Bev Hermanson, Washington Federation of State Employees (pro); John Hosford, Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms; Ted Cowan, King County Outdoor Sports Council

HOUSE AMENDMENT(S):

A concealed pistol license may not be issued to a person who is ineligible to possess a weapon under federal law. Technical clarifications are made regarding the role of the Department of Licensing in permit revocations.