

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1259**

Chapter 243, Laws of 1993

53rd Legislature  
1993 Regular Session

FORFEITED FIREARMS--DESTRUCTION, SALE, OR TRADE OF

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/7/93

Passed by the House April 20, 1993  
Yeas 67 Nays 29

BRIAN EBERSOLE  
**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 7, 1993  
Yeas 46 Nays 2

JOEL PRITCHARD  
**President of the Senate**

Approved May 7, 1993

MIKE LOWRY  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Alan Thompson, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1259** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

ALAN THOMPSON  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 7, 1993 - 11:27 a.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1259

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 1993 Regular Session

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Locke, Appelwick, J. Kohl, Wang, Reams, Veloria, Johanson, L. Johnson, Flemming and Pruitt)

Read first time 03/03/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to forfeiture of firearms; amending RCW 9.41.098;  
2 and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9.41.098 and 1989 c 222 s 8 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The superior courts and the courts of limited jurisdiction of  
7 the state may order forfeiture of a firearm which is proven to be:

8 (a) Found concealed on a person not authorized by RCW 9.41.060 or  
9 9.41.070 to carry a concealed pistol: PROVIDED, That it is an absolute  
10 defense to forfeiture if the person possessed a valid Washington  
11 concealed pistol license within the preceding two years and has not  
12 become ineligible for a concealed pistol license in the interim.  
13 Before the firearm may be returned, the person must pay the past due  
14 renewal fee and the current renewal fee;

15 (b) Commercially sold to any person without an application as  
16 required by RCW 9.41.090;

17 (c) Found in the possession or under the control of a person at the  
18 time the person committed or was arrested for committing a crime of  
19 violence or a crime in which a firearm was used or displayed or a

1 felony violation of the uniform controlled substances act, chapter  
2 69.50 RCW;

3 (d) Found concealed on a person who is in any place in which a  
4 concealed pistol license is required, and who is under the influence of  
5 any drug or under the influence of intoxicating liquor, having 0.10  
6 grams or more of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of breath or 0.10  
7 percent or more by weight of alcohol in the person's blood, as shown by  
8 analysis of the person's breath, blood, or other bodily substance;

9 (e) Found in the possession of a person prohibited from possessing  
10 the firearm under RCW 9.41.040;

11 (f) Found in the possession of a person free on bail or personal  
12 recognizance pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a crime of  
13 violence or a crime in which a firearm was used or displayed, except  
14 that violations of Title 77 RCW shall not result in forfeiture under  
15 this section;

16 (g) Found in the possession of a person found to have been mentally  
17 incompetent while in possession of a firearm when apprehended or who is  
18 thereafter committed pursuant to chapter 10.77 or 71.05 RCW;

19 (h) Known to have been used or displayed by a person in the  
20 violation of a proper written order of a court of general jurisdiction;  
21 or

22 (i) Known to have been used in the commission of a crime of  
23 violence or a crime in which a firearm was used or displayed or a  
24 felony violation of the uniformed controlled substances act, chapter  
25 69.50 RCW.

26 (2) Upon order of forfeiture, the court in its discretion shall  
27 order destruction of any firearm that is illegal for any person to  
28 possess. ~~((All firearms legal for citizen possession that are  
29 judicially forfeited or forfeited due to failure to make a claim under  
30 RCW 63.32.010, 63.40.010, or 63.35.020 shall be submitted for auction  
31 to commercial sellers once a year if the submitting agency has  
32 accumulated at least ten firearms authorized for sale. Law enforcement  
33 agencies may conduct joint auctions for the purpose of maximizing  
34 efficiency. A maximum of ten percent of such firearms may be retained  
35 for use by local law enforcement agencies and the Washington state  
36 patrol. Before submission for auction, a court may temporarily retain  
37 forfeited firearms if needed for evidence. The proceeds from any sale  
38 shall be divided as follows: The local jurisdiction and the Washington  
39 state patrol shall retain its costs, including actual costs of storage~~

1 and sale, and shall forward the remainder to the state department of  
2 wildlife for use in its firearms training program pursuant to RCW  
3 77.32.155.

4 If a firearm is delivered to a law enforcement agency and the  
5 agency no longer requires use of the firearm, the agency shall dispose  
6 of the firearm by auction as provided by this subsection. The public  
7 auctioning agency shall, as a minimum, maintain a record of all  
8 forfeited firearms by manufacturer, model, caliber, serial number, date  
9 and circumstances of forfeiture, and final disposition. The records  
10 shall be open to public inspection and copying.) A court may  
11 temporarily retain forfeited firearms needed for evidence.

12 (a) Except as provided in (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection,  
13 firearms that are: (i) Judicially forfeited and no longer needed for  
14 evidence; or (ii) forfeited due to a failure to make a claim under RCW  
15 63.32.010 or 63.40.010; may be disposed of in any manner determined by  
16 the local legislative authority. Any proceeds of an auction or trade  
17 may be retained by the legislative authority. This subsection (2)(a)  
18 applies only to firearms that come into the possession of the law  
19 enforcement agency after June 30, 1993, and applies only if the law  
20 enforcement agency has complied with (b) of this subsection.

21 By midnight, June 30, 1993, every law enforcement agency shall  
22 prepare an inventory, under oath, of every firearm that has been  
23 judicially forfeited, has been seized and may be subject to judicial  
24 forfeiture, or that has been, or may be, forfeited due to a failure to  
25 make a claim under RCW 63.32.010 or 63.40.010.

26 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, of the  
27 inventoried firearms a law enforcement agency shall destroy illegal  
28 firearms, may retain a maximum of ten percent of legal forfeited  
29 firearms for agency use, and shall either:

30 (i) Comply with the provisions for the auction of firearms in RCW  
31 9.41.098 that were in effect immediately preceding the effective date  
32 of this act; or

33 (ii) Trade, auction, or arrange for the auction of, rifles and  
34 shotguns. In addition, the law enforcement agency shall either trade,  
35 auction, or arrange for the auction of, short firearms, or shall pay a  
36 fee of twenty-five dollars to the state treasurer for every short  
37 firearm neither auctioned nor traded, to a maximum of fifty thousand  
38 dollars. The fees shall be accompanied by an inventory, under oath, of  
39 every short firearm listed in the inventory required by (a) of this

1 subsection, that has been neither traded nor auctioned. The state  
2 treasurer shall credit the fees to the firearms range account  
3 established in RCW 77.12.720. All trades or auctions of firearms under  
4 this subsection shall be to commercial sellers. Proceeds of any  
5 auction less costs, including actual costs of storage and sale, shall  
6 be forwarded to the firearms range account established in RCW  
7 77.12.720.

8 (c) Antique firearms as defined by RCW 9.41.150 and firearms  
9 recognized as curios, relics, and firearms of particular historical  
10 significance by the United States treasury department bureau of  
11 alcohol, tobacco, and firearms are exempt from destruction and shall be  
12 disposed of by auction or trade to commercial sellers.

13 (d) Firearms in the possession of the Washington state patrol on or  
14 after the effective date of this act that are judicially forfeited and  
15 no longer needed for evidence, or forfeited due to a failure to make a  
16 claim under RCW 63.35.020, must be disposed of as follows: (i) Firearms  
17 illegal for any person to possess must be destroyed; (ii) the  
18 Washington state patrol may retain a maximum of ten percent of legal  
19 firearms for agency use; and (iii) all other legal firearms must be  
20 auctioned or traded to commercial sellers. The Washington state patrol  
21 may retain any proceeds of an auction or trade.

22 (3) The court shall order the firearm returned to the owner upon a  
23 showing that there is no probable cause to believe a violation of  
24 subsection (1) of this section existed or the firearm was stolen from  
25 the owner or the owner neither had knowledge of nor consented to the  
26 act or omission involving the firearm which resulted in its forfeiture.

27 (4) A law enforcement officer of the state or of any county or  
28 municipality may confiscate a firearm found to be in the possession of  
29 a person under circumstances specified in subsection (1) of this  
30 section. After confiscation, the firearm shall not be surrendered  
31 except: (a) To the prosecuting attorney for use in subsequent legal  
32 proceedings; (b) for disposition according to an order of a court  
33 having jurisdiction as provided in subsection (1) of this section; or  
34 (c) to the owner if the proceedings are dismissed or as directed in  
35 subsection (3) of this section.

36 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate  
37 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
2 effect immediately.

Passed the House April 20, 1993.

Passed the Senate April 7, 1993.

Approved by the Governor May 7, 1993.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 7, 1993.