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**HOUSE BILL 1152**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Doglio, Walen, Ryu, and Ramel

Prefiled 01/02/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing public safety by establishing secure  
2 storage requirements for firearms in vehicles and residences and by  
3 directing the Washington office of firearm safety and violence  
4 prevention to provide education regarding firearm secure storage;  
5 amending RCW 43.330A.020, 9.41.050, and 9.41.360; adding a new  
6 section to chapter 9.41 RCW; prescribing penalties; and providing an  
7 effective date.

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

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9.41 RCW  
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) **Secure storage of firearms in vehicles.**

12 (a) A person shall not store or leave a pistol in any vehicle  
13 unless (i) the pistol is stored unloaded in a container that is  
14 opaque, locked, hard-sided, and affixed within the vehicle, (ii) the  
15 container is concealed from view from outside the vehicle, and (iii)  
16 the vehicle is locked.

17 (b) A person shall not store or leave a rifle or shotgun in any  
18 vehicle unless (i) the rifle or shotgun is stored unloaded in a  
19 container that is opaque, locked, hard-sided or soft-sided, and  
20 affixed within the vehicle, (ii) the container is concealed from view  
21 from outside the vehicle, and (iii) the vehicle is locked.

1 (c) A rifle or shotgun stored in a soft-sided container in a  
2 vehicle in accordance with this subsection must also have a trigger  
3 lock or similar device that is designed to prevent the unauthorized  
4 use or discharge of the firearm installed on the rifle or shotgun  
5 while the firearm is stored in a soft-sided container.

6 (d) For the purpose of this subsection, a hard-sided container  
7 excludes a glove compartment or center console but includes a console  
8 vault or other container specifically designed to securely store  
9 firearms.

10 (e) This subsection does not apply to:

11 (i) Antique firearms;

12 (ii) Storing or leaving a firearm in a vehicle used for farm  
13 operations that is on the person's private farmland, including a  
14 leased farm, as "farm" and "farmland" are defined in RCW 7.48.310;

15 (iii) A person who lives in a vehicle, as "vehicle" is defined in  
16 RCW 46.70.011, uses that vehicle as their primary residence, and  
17 stores or leaves their own firearms in that vehicle. For the purpose  
18 of this subsection, a person uses their vehicle as their primary  
19 residence when the person habitually uses the vehicle as living  
20 quarters a majority of the time and conducts activities in the  
21 vehicle consistent with the common understanding of residing, such as  
22 sleeping, eating, and keeping personal belongings. A person who lives  
23 in a vehicle is subject to all secure storage requirements for  
24 firearms in residences;

25 (iv) Federal peace officers, general authority Washington peace  
26 officers, limited authority Washington peace officers, and specially  
27 commissioned Washington peace officers as those terms are defined in  
28 RCW 10.93.020;

29 (v) A person who holds a valid Washington or out-of-state hunting  
30 license and who is engaged in lawful hunting activities;

31 (vi) A person engaged in hunter education training and outreach  
32 offered by the Washington department of fish and wildlife; and

33 (vii) An active member of the United States armed forces while on  
34 duty.

35 (2) **Secure storage of firearms in residences.**

36 (a) A person shall not store or leave a firearm in their  
37 residence unless the firearm is securely stored whenever it is not  
38 being carried or readily controlled by that person or another lawful  
39 authorized user.

1 (b) For the purpose of this section, a firearm is "securely  
2 stored" if it is either: (i) Locked or disabled using a tamper-  
3 resistant mechanical lock or other safety device properly engaged in  
4 order to render the firearm inoperable by any person other than the  
5 owner or other lawfully authorized user, and also kept out of plain  
6 sight; or (ii) stored within a locked gun safe or similar locked  
7 container secure from access by unauthorized users.

8 (c) For the purpose of this section, "carried or readily  
9 controlled means" means either: (i) The person or other lawful  
10 authorized user is carrying the firearm on their person; or (ii) the  
11 person or other lawful authorized user is within close enough  
12 proximity to the firearm to readily prevent unauthorized users from  
13 gaining access to the firearm.

14 (d) For the purpose of this section "residence" means a building  
15 or vehicle that a person habitually uses as living quarters a  
16 majority of the time. "Uses as living quarters" means to conduct  
17 activities consistent with the common understanding of residing, such  
18 as sleeping; eating; keeping personal belongings; receiving mail; and  
19 paying utilities, rent, or mortgage. A nonpermanent or movable  
20 building or vehicle including, but not limited to, a motor home,  
21 travel trailer, camper, or boat, may qualify as a residence provided  
22 it is habitually used as living quarters a majority of the time.

23 (e) This subsection does not apply to antique firearms.

24 (3) **Enforcement.**

25 (a)(i) A violation of this section is a class 1 civil infraction  
26 and subject to a monetary penalty of up to \$1,000.

27 (ii) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor when the  
28 violation allows a prohibited person to obtain access to and  
29 possession of a firearm.

30 (iii) A violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor when the  
31 violation allows a prohibited person to take possession of a firearm  
32 and use that firearm in the commission of any crime.

33 (iv) A violation of this section is a class C felony when the  
34 violation allows a prohibited person to take possession of a firearm  
35 and use that firearm to cause personal injury or death to a third  
36 party.

37 (b) For the purpose of this section, "prohibited person" means a  
38 person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or  
39 federal law.

40 (c) This section does not apply if:

1 (i) In the case of a person who is a prohibited person on the  
2 basis of the person's age, access to the firearm is with the lawful  
3 permission of the prohibited person's parent or guardian and  
4 supervised by an adult, or is in accordance with RCW 9.41.042;

5 (ii) The prohibited person obtains, or obtains and discharges,  
6 the firearm in a lawful act of self-defense.

7 (d) If a death or serious injury occurs as a result of an alleged  
8 violation of this section, the prosecuting attorney may decline to  
9 prosecute, even though technically sufficient evidence to prosecute  
10 exists, in situations where prosecution would serve no public purpose  
11 or would defeat the purpose of the law in question.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.330A.020 and 2020 c 313 s 3 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 (1) The Washington office of firearm safety and violence  
15 prevention is created within the department for the purposes of  
16 coordinating and promoting effective state and local efforts to  
17 reduce firearm violence.

18 (2) The duties of the office include, but are not limited to:

19 (a) Working with law enforcement agencies, county prosecutors,  
20 researchers, and public health agencies throughout the state to  
21 identify and improve upon available data sources, data collection  
22 methods, and data-sharing mechanisms. The office will also identify  
23 gaps in available data needed for ongoing analysis, policy  
24 development, and the implementation of evidence-based firearm  
25 violence intervention and prevention strategies;

26 (b) Researching, identifying, and recommending legislative policy  
27 options to promote the implementation of statewide evidence-based  
28 firearm violence intervention and prevention strategies;

29 (c) Researching, identifying, and applying for nonstate funding  
30 to aid in the research, analysis, and implementation of statewide  
31 firearm violence intervention and prevention strategies;

32 (d) Working with the office of crime (~~(victim[s])~~) victims  
33 advocacy to identify opportunities to better support victims of  
34 firearm violence, a population that is currently underrepresented  
35 among recipients of victim services;

36 (e) (~~(Contract—[Contracting])~~) Contracting for a statewide  
37 helpline, counseling, and referral services for victims, friends, and  
38 family members impacted by gun violence and community professionals  
39 and providers who engage with them;

1 (f) (~~Contract~~ [~~Contracting~~]) Contracting with the University of  
2 Washington to develop a best practice guide for therapy for gun  
3 violence victims;

4 (g) Administering the Washington firearm violence intervention  
5 and prevention grant program as outlined in RCW 43.330A.050;

6 (h) Educating the public regarding secure firearm storage  
7 requirements, benefits, and options.

8 (3) The office shall report to the appropriate legislative policy  
9 committees by December 1st every odd-numbered year on its progress  
10 and findings in analyzing data, developing strategies to prevent  
11 firearm violence, and recommendations for additional legislative  
12 policy options. The first report must be submitted by December 1,  
13 2021.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 9.41.050 and 2003 c 53 s 28 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 (1)(a) Except in the person's place of abode or fixed place of  
17 business, a person shall not carry a pistol concealed on his or her  
18 person without a license to carry a concealed pistol.

19 (b) Every licensee shall have his or her concealed pistol license  
20 in his or her immediate possession at all times that he or she is  
21 required by this section to have a concealed pistol license and shall  
22 display the same upon demand to any police officer or to any other  
23 person when and if required by law to do so. Any violation of this  
24 subsection (1)(b) shall be a class 1 civil infraction under chapter  
25 7.80 RCW and shall be punished accordingly pursuant to chapter 7.80  
26 RCW and the infraction rules for courts of limited jurisdiction.

27 (2)(a) A person shall not carry or place a loaded pistol in any  
28 vehicle unless the person has a license to carry a concealed pistol  
29 and: (i) The pistol is on the licensee's person, (ii) the licensee is  
30 within the vehicle at all times that the pistol is there, or (iii)  
31 the ~~((licensee is away from the vehicle and the pistol is locked~~  
32 ~~within the vehicle and concealed from view from outside the vehicle))~~  
33 pistol is securely stored in accordance with section 1 of this act.

34 (b) A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

35 (3) ~~((a) A person at least eighteen years of age who is in~~  
36 ~~possession of an unloaded pistol shall not leave the unloaded pistol~~  
37 ~~in a vehicle unless the unloaded pistol is locked within the vehicle~~  
38 ~~and concealed from view from outside the vehicle.~~

39 ~~(b) A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.~~

1       ~~(4))~~) Nothing in this section permits the possession of firearms  
2 illegal to possess under state or federal law.

3       **Sec. 4.** RCW 9.41.360 and 2019 c 3 s 5 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5       (1) A person who stores or leaves a firearm in a location where  
6 the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a prohibited person  
7 may gain access to the firearm:

8       (a) Is guilty of community endangerment due to unsafe storage of  
9 a firearm in the first degree if a prohibited person obtains access  
10 and possession of the firearm and causes personal injury or death  
11 with the firearm; or

12       (b) Is guilty of community endangerment due to unsafe storage of  
13 a firearm in the second degree if a prohibited person obtains access  
14 and possession of the firearm and:

15       (i) Causes the firearm to discharge;

16       (ii) Carries, exhibits, or displays the firearm in a public place  
17 in a manner that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or  
18 that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons; or

19       (iii) Uses the firearm in the commission of a crime.

20       (2)(a) Community endangerment due to unsafe storage of a firearm  
21 in the first degree is a class C felony punishable according to  
22 chapter 9A.20 RCW.

23       (b) Community endangerment due to unsafe storage of a firearm in  
24 the second degree is a gross misdemeanor punishable according to  
25 chapter 9A.20 RCW.

26       (3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply if:

27       (a) The firearm was in secure gun storage, or secured with a  
28 trigger lock or similar device that is designed to prevent the  
29 unauthorized use or discharge of the firearm, or secured in  
30 accordance with section 1 of this act;

31       (b) In the case of a person who is a prohibited person on the  
32 basis of the person's age, access to the firearm is with the lawful  
33 permission of the prohibited person's parent or guardian and  
34 supervised by an adult, or is in accordance with RCW 9.41.042;

35       (c) The prohibited person obtains, or obtains and discharges, the  
36 firearm in a lawful act of self-defense; or

37       ~~((d) The prohibited person's access to the firearm was obtained~~  
38 ~~as a result of an unlawful entry, provided that the unauthorized~~  
39 ~~access or theft of the firearm is reported to a local law enforcement~~

1 ~~agency in the jurisdiction in which the unauthorized access or theft~~  
2 ~~occurred within five days of the time the victim of the unlawful~~  
3 ~~entry knew or reasonably should have known that the firearm had been~~  
4 ~~taken.)~~)

5 (4) If a death or serious injury occurs as a result of an alleged  
6 violation of subsection (1)(a) of this section, the prosecuting  
7 attorney may decline to prosecute, even though technically sufficient  
8 evidence to prosecute exists, in situations where prosecution would  
9 serve no public purpose or would defeat the purpose of the law in  
10 question.

11 (5) For the purposes of this section, "prohibited person" means a  
12 person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or  
13 federal law.

14 (6) Nothing in this section mandates how or where a firearm must  
15 be stored.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its  
17 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
18 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
19 persons or circumstances is not affected.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect January 1, 2026.

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