
HOUSE BILL 1776

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Volz and Schmidt

Read first time 02/03/25. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the firearm fee liability and
2 refund act; adding a new section to chapter 43.43 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the
6 unavailability of the secure automated firearms e-check (SAFE)
7 background check system for firearm transfers in November 2024
8 resulted in inconvenience and likely significant economic loss to
9 firearms purchasers and licensed firearms dealers in Washington
10 state, in addition to the possible denial of legal firearms purchases
11 or transfers to Washington residents. The legislature further finds
12 that a refund of background check fees should be provided to firearms
13 purchasers, and to licensed firearms dealers who covered the costs of
14 background check fees for purchasers, for fees collected during the
15 time period the SAFE background check system was unable to access the
16 administrative office of the courts data system for the purpose of
17 completing background checks during November 2024.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.43
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 The Washington state patrol firearms background check program
2 shall provide reimbursement of firearm background check fees charged
3 under RCW 43.43.580 during the period that the secure automated
4 firearms e-check (SAFE) background check system was unable to access
5 the administrative office of the courts data system for the purpose
6 of completing background checks during the month of November 2024.
7 The Washington state patrol firearms background check program shall
8 establish a process to provide reimbursement to: Any applicant for
9 the purchase or transfer of a firearm who paid background check fees
10 during this time period; and any licensed firearms dealer who
11 provides documentation that the dealer covered the cost of background
12 check fees for applicants applying for the purchase or transfer of a
13 firearm during this time period. The Washington state patrol firearms
14 background check program may provide reimbursement from funds in the
15 state firearms background check system account created in RCW
16 43.43.590.

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