
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1900

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Scott, Cole, Roland, Ludwig, Forner, Wineberry, Locke, Appelwick, H. Myers, Rasmussen, Wang, Wynne and Anderson).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to firearm control; adding new sections to chapter
2 9.41 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

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

6 (1) Except as provided in this section, no person shall store or
7 leave a loaded firearm, or an unloaded firearm accompanied by
8 ammunition, in any location where the person knows, or reasonably
9 should know, that an unsupervised child is likely to gain access.

10 (2) This section shall not apply to:

11 (a) A firearm which has been secured with a trigger lock or other
12 similar device which prevents the firearm from discharging;

13 (b) A child's access to firearms which is supervised by an adult;

1 (c) A child's access to firearms which was obtained as a result of
2 an unlawful entry;

3 (d) A child who possesses a valid hunting license issued by the
4 department of wildlife and who successfully completed the department's
5 course of instruction in the safe handling of firearms, safety,
6 conservation, and sportsmanship; or

7 (e) Law enforcement officers while engaged in their official
8 duties.

9 (3) Any person who violates the provisions of this section is
10 guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be fined not
11 more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than one
12 year, or both.

13 (4) For the purposes of this section:

14 (a) "Ammunition" means any ammunition cartridge, shell, or other
15 device containing explosive or incendiary material designed and
16 intended for use in any firearm.

17 (b) "Child" means any person under the age of sixteen years.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9.41 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) When selling any firearm, licensed firearms dealers shall offer
21 to sell or give the purchaser a trigger-locking device.

22 (2) At every purchase counter in every store, shop, or sales
23 outlet, licensed firearms dealers shall conspicuously post the
24 following warning in block letters not less than one inch in height:
25 "IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE OR LEAVE AN UNLOCKED FIREARM WHERE CHILDREN
26 CAN OBTAIN ACCESS."

27 (3) Any person who violates the provisions of this section is
28 guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be fined not more
29 than five hundred dollars.

1 (4) For the purposes of this section, "trigger-locking device"
2 means a padlock, keylock, combination lock, or similar locking device
3 which, when the device is locked on, around, or in the firearm, renders
4 the firearm incapable of firing.