

***Criminal Justice & Corrections  
Committee***

***HB 1604***

***Brief Description:*** *Restricting weapons in hospitals.*

***Sponsors:*** *Representatives Schual-Berke, Ballasiotes, O'Brien, Skinner, Campbell, Keiser, Ogden, Cody, Kenney, Kagi, Lovick, Edmonds, Darneille and Santos.*

***Brief Summary of Bill***

- *With a few exceptions, makes it is a gross misdemeanor to knowingly possess or control a weapon in any building licensed as a hospital.*

***Hearing Date:*** *2/16/01*

***Staff:*** *Katy Freeman (786-7386).*

***Background:***

*It is a gross misdemeanor to knowingly possess or control a weapon in a variety of places, such as:*

- *restricted areas of jails;*
- *restricted areas of court facilities;*
- *restricted areas of public mental health facilities; and*
- *portions of establishments classified as off-limits to persons under 21 years of age by the state Liquor Control Board.*

*The restricted areas do not include common areas of entering and exiting which are open to the general public.*

*Certain persons, however, may knowingly possess or control a weapon in these places, including:*

- *persons engaged in official military duties;*
- *law enforcement personnel;*
- *security personnel while engaged in official duties; and*

- *any administrator or employee of a mental health facility or state institution, or any other person who, upon entering the facility or institution, directly and promptly obtains written permission to possess a firearm while on the premises.*

*A weapon is any firearm, explosive, or instrument such as a slung shot, sand club, metal knuckles, and various types of knives.*

*There is no prohibition for bringing weapons into a hospital.*

*A gross misdemeanor carries a maximum sentence of one year of incarceration, a fine of \$5,000, or both.*

***Summary of Bill:***

*With a few exceptions, it is a gross misdemeanor to knowingly possess or control a weapon in any building licensed as a hospital. The restricted areas of a hospital do not include common areas of entering or exiting open to the general public.*

*The prohibition does not apply to any administrator or employee of a hospital or to any person who, upon entering the hospital, directly and promptly obtains written permission to possess the firearm while on the premises. Additionally, a person may possess a pistol while in a hospital if he or she carries a valid concealed pistol license.*

***Appropriation:*** *None.*

***Fiscal Note:*** *Requested on February 7, 2001.*

***Effective Date:*** *Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.*