
SENATE BILL 6273

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2002 Regular Session

By Senators Spanel, Haugen, Kohl-Welles, Fairley, Gardner and Kline

Read first time 01/14/2002. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to weapons at public meetings; and amending RCW
2 9.41.300.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9.41.300 and 1994 sp.s. c 7 s 429 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) It is unlawful for any person to enter the following places
7 when he or she knowingly possesses or knowingly has under his or her
8 control a weapon:

9 (a) The restricted access areas of a jail, or of a law enforcement
10 facility, or any place used for the confinement of a person (i)
11 arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense, (ii) held for
12 extradition or as a material witness, or (iii) otherwise confined
13 pursuant to an order of a court, except an order under chapter 13.32A
14 or 13.34 RCW. Restricted access areas do not include common areas of
15 egress or ingress open to the general public;

16 (b) Those areas in any building which are used in connection with:
17 (i) Court proceedings, including courtrooms, jury rooms, judge's
18 chambers, offices, and areas used to conduct court business, waiting
19 areas, and corridors adjacent to areas used in connection with court

1 proceedings; or (ii) city, town, or county legislative authority
2 meetings, including city or town council, county council, and county
3 board of commissioner's chambers, offices, and areas used to conduct
4 city, town, or county legislative authority meetings, waiting areas,
5 and corridors adjacent to areas used in connection with city, town, or
6 county legislative authority meetings. The restricted areas do not
7 include common areas of ingress and egress to the building that is used
8 in connection with court proceedings or city, town, or county
9 legislative authority meetings, when it is possible to protect court or
10 city, town, or county legislative authority meeting areas without
11 restricting ingress and egress to the building. The restricted areas
12 shall be the minimum necessary to fulfill the objective of this
13 subsection (1)(b).

14 In addition, the local legislative authority shall provide either
15 a stationary locked box sufficient in size for pistols and key to a
16 weapon owner for weapon storage, or shall designate an official to
17 receive weapons for safekeeping, during the owner's visit to restricted
18 areas of the building. The locked box or designated official shall be
19 located within the same building used in connection with court
20 proceedings or city, town, or county legislative authority meetings.
21 The local legislative authority shall be liable for any negligence
22 causing damage to or loss of a weapon either placed in a locked box or
23 left with an official during the owner's visit to restricted areas of
24 the building.

25 The local judicial authority or city, town, or county legislative
26 authority shall designate and clearly mark those areas where weapons
27 are prohibited, and shall post notices at each entrance to the building
28 of the prohibition against weapons in the restricted areas;

29 (c) The restricted access areas of a public mental health facility
30 certified by the department of social and health services for inpatient
31 hospital care and state institutions for the care of the mentally ill,
32 excluding those facilities solely for evaluation and treatment.
33 Restricted access areas do not include common areas of egress and
34 ingress open to the general public; or

35 (d) That portion of an establishment classified by the state liquor
36 control board as off-limits to persons under twenty-one years of age.

37 (2) Cities, towns, counties, and other municipalities may enact
38 laws and ordinances:

1 (a) Restricting the discharge of firearms in any portion of their
2 respective jurisdictions where there is a reasonable likelihood that
3 humans, domestic animals, or property will be jeopardized. Such laws
4 and ordinances shall not abridge the right of the individual guaranteed
5 by Article I, section 24 of the state Constitution to bear arms in
6 defense of self or others; and

7 (b) Restricting the possession of firearms in any stadium or
8 convention center, operated by a city, town, county, or other
9 municipality, except that such restrictions shall not apply to:

10 (i) Any pistol in the possession of a person licensed under RCW
11 9.41.070 or exempt from the licensing requirement by RCW 9.41.060; or

12 (ii) Any showing, demonstration, or lecture involving the
13 exhibition of firearms.

14 (3)(a) Cities, towns, and counties may enact ordinances restricting
15 the areas in their respective jurisdictions in which firearms may be
16 sold, but, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a business
17 selling firearms may not be treated more restrictively than other
18 businesses located within the same zone. An ordinance requiring the
19 cessation of business within a zone shall not have a shorter
20 grandfather period for businesses selling firearms than for any other
21 businesses within the zone.

22 (b) Cities, towns, and counties may restrict the location of a
23 business selling firearms to not less than five hundred feet from
24 primary or secondary school grounds, if the business has a storefront,
25 has hours during which it is open for business, and posts
26 advertisements or signs observable to passersby that firearms are
27 available for sale. A business selling firearms that exists as of the
28 date a restriction is enacted under this subsection (3)(b) shall be
29 grandfathered according to existing law.

30 (4) Violations of local ordinances adopted under subsection (2) of
31 this section must have the same penalty as provided for by state law.

32 (5) The perimeter of the premises of any specific location covered
33 by subsection (1) of this section shall be posted at reasonable
34 intervals to alert the public as to the existence of any law
35 restricting the possession of firearms on the premises.

36 (6) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

37 (a) A person engaged in military activities sponsored by the
38 federal or state governments, while engaged in official duties;

39 (b) Law enforcement personnel; or

1 (c) Security personnel while engaged in official duties.

2 (7) Subsection (1)(a) of this section does not apply to a person
3 licensed pursuant to RCW 9.41.070 who, upon entering the place or
4 facility, directly and promptly proceeds to the administrator of the
5 facility or the administrator's designee and obtains written permission
6 to possess the firearm while on the premises or checks his or her
7 firearm. The person may reclaim the firearms upon leaving but must
8 immediately and directly depart from the place or facility.

9 (8) Subsection (1)(c) of this section does not apply to any
10 administrator or employee of the facility or to any person who, upon
11 entering the place or facility, directly and promptly proceeds to the
12 administrator of the facility or the administrator's designee and
13 obtains written permission to possess the firearm while on the
14 premises.

15 (9) Subsection (1)(d) of this section does not apply to the
16 proprietor of the premises or his or her employees while engaged in
17 their employment.

18 (10) Any person violating subsection (1) of this section is guilty
19 of a gross misdemeanor.

20 (11)(a) "City, town, or county legislative authority meeting" means
21 a meeting as defined in RCW 42.30.020 of the governing body as defined
22 in RCW 42.30.020 of a city, town, or county.

23 (b) "Weapon" as used in this section means any firearm, explosive
24 as defined in RCW 70.74.010, or instrument or weapon listed in RCW
25 9.41.250.

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