
Judiciary Committee

SSB 6389

Title: An act relating to weapons in commercial service airports.

Brief Description: Prohibiting weapons in restricted access areas of commercial service airports.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Brandland, Haugen, Esser, Rasmussen, Kline, Murray and Kohl-Welles).

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibits, with exceptions, the possession of weapons, including firearms, within the restricted access areas of a commercial service airport.

Hearing Date: 2/27/04

Staff: Bill Perry (786-7123).

Background:

Weapons, including firearms, are prohibited statewide in certain designated places. These places are:

- The restricted access areas of a jail or law enforcement facility;
- Courtrooms and other areas adjacent to or used in conjunction with court proceedings;
- The restricted access areas of a public mental health facility; and
- Taverns and other places that are made off-limits to persons under age 21 by liquor control board rules.

Additional rules apply to the prohibition on weapons in court facilities. A local jurisdiction with a court facility is required to provide storage for weapons at court facilities. A locked box must be provided, or an official must be designated, so that a person entering the court facility may check his or her weapon. The local jurisdiction is liable for the loss of or damage to a weapon left in a locked box or with an official. Local jurisdictions must also post restricted areas of the court facility with notice that weapons are prohibited.

Various "dangerous" weapons, as well as firearms, are generally prohibited on school facilities. In addition, local jurisdictions are authorized to prohibit firearms in a stadium or convention center.

It is a gross misdemeanor to possess a weapon in any of these places. However, certain persons are exempt from some or all of these prohibitions. Law enforcement personnel are exempt from

all of the prohibitions. Military or security personnel are also exempt from all of the prohibitions, but only while engaged in official duties.

Summary of Bill:

Weapons are prohibited in the restricted access areas of a commercial service airport. Restricted areas are those designated in an airport security plan that has been approved by the Federal Transportation Security Administration. The restricted areas include passenger screening checkpoints, but not areas normally open to unscreened passengers.

The prohibition is subject to the existing exceptions for law enforcement, military and security personnel.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.