

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2941

As Passed House:

February 7, 2008

Title: An act relating to concerning fees for explosives licenses.

Brief Description: Concerning licensing fees under the explosives act.

Sponsors: By Representatives Moeller and Conway; by request of Department of Labor & Industries.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Commerce & Labor: 1/22/08, 1/29/08 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/7/08, 93-2.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Raises the fees for explosives licenses.
- Requires (rather than authorizes) the Department of Labor and Industries (Department) to charge applicants the current fee for criminal history record checks.
- Specifies that fees collected for explosives licensing are to be deposited in the accident and medical aid funds.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Conway, Chair; Wood, Vice Chair; Chandler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Crouse, Green, Moeller and Williams.

Staff: Joan Elgee (786-7106).

Background:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

A license is required to manufacture, purchase, sell, use, and store explosives, and failure to have a valid license is a class C felony. Explosives include dynamite, nitroglycerin, and blasting caps. Fingerprint-based criminal history record checks are required for every new and renewal applicant. As a result of recent reviews by the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the explosives section of the Department of Labor and Industries (Department) must now pay the WSP for the WSP and FBI record checks.

Annual minimum and maximum license fees for each license type are set in statute. In addition, the Department may charge a fee of up to \$20 for the criminal history check.

The Department issues explosives licenses and otherwise administers the explosives provisions under the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act. Amounts collected are deposited into the State General Fund.

Summary of Bill:

License fees for explosives licenses are raised as follows:

License Type	Minimum Fee		Maximum Fee	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Purchaser	\$ 5	\$25	\$ 15	\$100
Storage	\$10	\$50	\$100	\$400
User	\$ 5	\$50	\$ 15	\$200
Manufacturer	\$25	\$50	\$ 50	\$200
Seller (dealer)	\$25	\$50	\$ 50	\$200

The Department must (rather than may) charge the applicant the current federal and state fee for the criminal history record check.

All license fees and criminal history check fees must be deposited into the accident and medical aid funds rather than the State General Fund.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill gives the Department the authority to increase fees in response to an FBI and a WSP review which determined that the explosives section was not a criminal justice agency and could not access criminal background check information. This would allow the Department to increase fees to pay for the background checks through the WSP.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Moeller, prime sponsor; and Josh Swanson and Dan McMurdie, Department of Labor and Industries.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.