

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6347

As of January 21, 2020

Title: An act relating to extending the expiration date for a concealed pistol license.

Brief Description: Extending the expiration date for a concealed pistol license.

Sponsors: Senators Wagoner, Lovelett, Hobbs, Holy, Muzzall and Randall.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Law & Justice: 1/20/20.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends the validity of a concealed pistol license from five years to seven years if the applicant provides proof of completion of a recognized firearm safety training program within the last five years.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Staff: Shani Bauer (786-7468)

Background: It is generally unlawful for a person to carry a pistol concealed on their person, except in the person's abode or fixed place of business, unless they have a valid concealed pistol license (CPL). Carrying a concealed pistol without having been issued a CPL is a misdemeanor offense. Failure to carry a CPL in one's immediate possession while carrying a concealed pistol is a civil infraction.

To obtain a CPL, a person must apply with the local law enforcement agency and undergo a fingerprint-based background check. A CPL must be issued if the applicant is eligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law, is 21 years of age or older, and submits a completed application along with the required application fee. A copy of the CPL must be delivered to the Department of Licensing, which maintains records of CPLs in an electronic database.

A CPL is valid for five years. The fee for an original CPL is \$36, plus additional charges imposed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which are passed on to the applicant. A CPL holder may renew the license by applying for renewal within 90 days before or after

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expiration of the license. The renewal takes effect on the expiration date of the previous license. The renewal fee is \$32, and if the licensee renews after the expiration date, an additional \$10 late renewal penalty applies.

Summary of Bill: A CPL is valid for seven years instead of five if the applicant provides proof of completion of a recognized firearm safety training program within the last five years that, at a minimum, includes instruction on:

- basic firearms safety rules;
- firearms and children, including safe storage;
- firearms and suicide prevention;
- safe storage of firearms to prevent unauthorized access and use;
- safe handling of firearms; and
- state and federal firearms laws, including prohibited firearms transfers.

The training must be sponsored by a law enforcement agency, college or university, a nationally recognized organization that customarily offers firearms training, or a firearms training school with instructors certified by a nationally recognized organization that customarily offers firearms training. The proof of training shall be in the form of a certification that states under penalty of perjury the training included the minimum requirements.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill could not be more different from SB 6294. I do not believe that you should force training upon people. The right to arm yourself for self-defense is a constitutional right that cannot be impaired through training or fee requirements. This bill allows a person to get another couple years on their CPL if they have completed training. This is a common sense incentive based approach to encourage people to get training. CPL holders are responsible, law abiding citizens.

We are supportive of legislation that creates a positive incentive to obtain training without being overly specific about the amount of training. SB 6294 takes a negative regressive approach. Between 1970 and 1990 there was a large drop in the number of accidental firearm deaths. Voluntary safety firearms training helps everyone.

CON: This bill places an expensive burden on those who seek to defend themselves. There are some areas of the state where it is very difficult to find a live fire training facility. Mandating training when there is not a facility available is an undue financial burden. Some people already have minimal financial ability to purchase a firearm.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Keith Wagoner, Prime Sponsor; Allen Ernst; Keith Wagoner.

CON: Sharyn Hinchcliffe, Pink Pistols Seattle/Tacoma.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: PRO: Jerry Bentler, citizen; Devon Oslund, citizen; Brian Keelean, Washington State Rifle and Pistol Association; Don Baldwin, citizen; Philip Shave, citizen; Van Byington, citizen.

CON: Mike Silvers, citizen; Daniel Mitchell, Sporting Systems; James Barrick, citizen; Jon Conley, citizen; Curtis Bingham, WAGuns; James Barrick, WAGuns; Chris Spieth, citizen; David Westhaver, citizen; Ira Moser, citizen; Tony Payauys, citizen; Brian Keelean, Washington State Rifle and Pistol Association; Adam Davison, citizen; Benton Cospers, citizen; Ryan Kalmikov, citizen; Mark Henri, citizen.

OTHER: Dan Chavre, citizen.