
Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee

HB 1224

Brief Description: Concerning spring blade knives.

Sponsors: Representatives Chambers, Chapman, Jacobsen, Walen, McCaslin, Ybarra, Sutherland, Griffey, Chase and Dent.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repeals the dangerous weapon statute's general restrictions on spring blade knives and related exceptions.• Maintains existing restrictions on spring blade knives in specified settings.
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Hearing Date: 1/18/22

Staff: John Burzynski (786-7133).

Background:

General Restrictions on Spring Blade Knives.

The dangerous weapon statute prohibits manufacturing, selling, disposing, or possessing spring blade knives, slung shots, sand clubs, and metal knuckles, and further prohibits furtively carrying with intent to conceal any dagger, dirk, pistol, or other dangerous weapons.

These restrictions do not apply to:

- the possession or use of spring blade knives by law enforcement officers, firefighter or rescue members, and military members while engaged in specified activities;
- the manufacture, sale, transportation, transfer, distribution, or possession of spring blade knives pursuant to a contract with a law enforcement agency, firefighter or rescue agency, military service, or another manufacturer or a commercial distributor of knives; or

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

- the manufacture, transportation, transfer, distribution, or possession of spring blade knives, solely for evaluation and assessment purposes by a general authority law enforcement agency, fire or rescue agency, military service, or a manufacturer or commercial distributor of knives.

Place-based Restrictions on Specified Weapons.

Washington restricts carrying, possession, and control of specified weapons, including spring blade knives, in schools, jails, public mental health facilities, liquor and cannabis establishments, and commercial service airports. While spring blade knives are not expressly listed as a prohibited weapon in these settings, the restrictions apply to any instrument or weapon listed in the dangerous weapon statute, which includes spring blade knives.

Summary of Bill:

Repealed Restrictions on Spring Blade Knives.

The dangerous weapon statute's general restriction on manufacturing, selling, disposing, or possessing spring blade knives is repealed. Additionally, spring blade knives are deemed not to constitute a dangerous weapon for purposes of Washington's restriction on furtively carrying with intent to conceal a dangerous weapon.

The exceptions to the dangerous weapon statute for spring blade knives possessed or used by law enforcement officers, firefighter or rescue members, and military members, and other specified exceptions for spring blade knives, are repealed.

Retained Restrictions on Spring Blade Knives.

Statutes that incorporate weapons listed in the dangerous weapon statute are revised to expressly list spring blade knives as a prohibited weapon to maintain current restrictions on spring blade knives in schools, jails, public mental health facilities, liquor and cannabis establishments, and commercial service airports.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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