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HOUSE BILL 1618

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State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Berg, Senn, Chapman, Ryu, Berry, Wicks, Bateman, Duerr, Ramel, Springer, Sells, J. Johnson, Taylor, Walen, Valdez, Callan, Cody, Davis, Goodman, Macri, Peterson, Ramos, Santos, Wylie, Slatter, Bergquist, Tharinger, Kloba, Pollet, Dolan, Riccelli, Ormsby, Harris-Talley, Hackney, and Frame

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1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting weapons at election-related  
2 offices and facilities subject to limited exemptions for law  
3 enforcement officers and security personnel; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 9.41 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9.41 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) It is unlawful for a person to carry onto, or to possess in,  
9 a ballot counting center, a voting center, a student engagement hub,  
10 or the county elections and voter registration office, or areas of  
11 facilities while being used as a ballot counting center, a voting  
12 center, a student engagement hub, or the county elections and voter  
13 registration office:

14 (a) Any firearm;

15 (b) Any other dangerous weapon as described in RCW 9.41.250;

16 (c) Any air gun, including any air pistol or air rifle, designed  
17 to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by the discharge of  
18 compressed air, carbon dioxide, or other gas; or

19 (d) (i) Any portable device manufactured to function as a weapon  
20 and which is commonly known as a stun gun, including a projectile  
21 stun gun that projects wired probes that are attached to the device

1 that emit an electrical charge designed to administer to a person or  
2 an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse; or

3 (ii) Any device, object, or instrument that is used or intended  
4 to be used as a weapon with the intent to injure a person by an  
5 electric shock, charge, or impulse.

6 (2) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section is  
7 guilty of a gross misdemeanor. If a person is convicted of a  
8 violation of subsection (1)(a) of this section, the person shall have  
9 his or her concealed pistol license, if any, revoked for a period of  
10 three years. Anyone convicted under subsection (1)(a) of this section  
11 is prohibited from applying for a concealed pistol license for a  
12 period of three years from the date of conviction. The court shall  
13 order the person to immediately surrender any concealed pistol  
14 license, and within three business days notify the department of  
15 licensing in writing of the required revocation of any concealed  
16 pistol license held by the person. Upon receipt of the notification  
17 by the court, the department of licensing shall determine if the  
18 person has a concealed pistol license. If the person does have a  
19 concealed pistol license, the department of licensing shall  
20 immediately notify the license-issuing authority which, upon receipt  
21 of the notification, shall immediately revoke the license.

22 (3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

23 (a) Any law enforcement officer of a federal, state, or local  
24 government agency; or

25 (b) Any security personnel hired by a county and engaged in  
26 security specifically for a counting center, a voting center, a  
27 student engagement hub, or the county elections and voter  
28 registration office or areas of facilities used for such purposes.  
29 However, a person who is not a commissioned law enforcement officer  
30 and who provides elections and voter registration security services  
31 under the direction of a county may not possess a firearm or device  
32 listed in subsection (1)(d) of this section unless he or she has  
33 successfully completed training in the use of firearms or such  
34 devices that is equivalent to the training received by commissioned  
35 law enforcement officers.

36 (4) Elections officers and officials must post signs providing  
37 notice of the restriction on possession of firearms and other weapons  
38 at each counting center, voting center, student engagement hub, or  
39 county elections and voter registration office, or areas of  
40 facilities while being used as a counting center, a voting center, a

1 student engagement hub, or the county elections and voter  
2 registration office.

3 (5) For the purposes of this section:

4 (a) "Ballot counting center" has the same meaning as "counting  
5 center" in RCW 29A.04.019;

6 (b) "Voting center" means a voting center as described in RCW  
7 29A.40.160; and

8 (c) "Student engagement hub" means a student engagement hub as  
9 described in RCW 29A.40.180.

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