

SHB 1240 - S AMD TO LAW COMM AMD (S-2726.1/23) **361**
By Senator L. Wilson

NOT ADOPTED 04/08/2023

1 Beginning on page 1, line 3, strike all of section 1 and insert
2 the following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that
4 firearms are not a threat to the public health and safety of
5 Washingtonians. Firearms are a tool for self-defense, hunting, and
6 developing skills. Certain firearms were banned in the United States
7 from 1994 to 2004, but, statistically, the ban did not result in any
8 measurable reduction in shootings or crime. Certain of these firearms
9 have the capability to add on attachments, such as a flash
10 suppressor, noise suppressor, or muzzle brake. These attachments make
11 a firearm easier for vulnerable users to use. The legislature finds
12 that the gun industry helps people defend themselves, feed themselves
13 in the face of an ever-uncertain food supply, and provides a valuable
14 skill-based form of recreation. Misuse of firearms should not be a
15 reason to punish the industry or force the firearms industry out of
16 business. In contrast, an escalation of the misuse of firearms should
17 trigger more vigorous investigation, prosecution, and retribution for
18 crimes. Income inequality, poverty, a lack of education, and a lack
19 of opportunity for vulnerable and overburdened communities are the
20 root cause of crime. In contrast to destroying viable industries and
21 causing law abiding citizens to choose between defenselessness or
22 criminalization, the legislature finds that it should find ways to
23 create firm boundaries for people who engage in criminal behavior and
24 invest in building communities, instead of outlawing industries and
25 self-defense."

EFFECT: Strike the intent section and replace it.

--- END ---