

FINAL BILL REPORT

2SSB 5444

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Restricting the possession of weapons, excluding carrying a pistol by a person licensed to carry a concealed pistol, on the premises of libraries, zoos, aquariums, and transit facilities.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Valdez, Hunt, Kuderer, Nguyen, Pedersen and Saldaña).

Senate Committee on Law & Justice

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary

Background: Weapons Prohibited in Designated Places. It is a gross misdemeanor for any person to enter certain designated places while knowingly possessing a weapon. These places are:

- the restricted access areas of a jail or law enforcement facility;
- courtrooms and other areas adjacent to or used in conjunction with court proceedings;
- the restricted access area of a public health facility;
- taverns and other places designated off-limits to persons under age 21 by Liquor and Cannabis Board rules; and
- the restricted access areas of commercial service airports.

These prohibitions do not apply to:

- any person engaged in military activities sponsored by the federal or state governments, while engaged in official duties;
- security personnel while engaged in official duties;
- correctional personnel or community corrections officers except while in taverns and other places off-limits to persons under age 21 or while in a courthouse as a party to an antiharassment protection order action, a domestic violence protection order action, or a domestic relations action where any party has alleged the existence of domestic violence; or
- law enforcement personnel except while in a courthouse when present as a party to an

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antiharassment protection order action, a domestic violence protection order action, or a domestic relations action where any party has alleged the existence of domestic violence.

An individual with a valid concealed carry permit may continue to carry in the restricted access areas of jails or law enforcement facilities if, upon entering the individual promptly proceeds to the administrator of the facility and obtains written permission to possess the firearm while on the premises.

Weapon means any firearm, explosive, or any weapon usually known as a slungshot, sand club, or metal knuckles; or any knife, dagger, dirk, or other similar weapon capable of causing death or bodily injury and is commonly used with the intent to cause death or bodily injury.

The perimeter of the locations listed above must be posted at reasonable intervals to alert the public to the existence of any law restricting the possession of firearms on the premises.

Gross Misdemeanors. Every person convicted of a gross misdemeanor shall be punished by imprisonment for a maximum term of 364 days, a fine not to exceed \$5,000, or both imprisonment and a fine.

Summary: The following locations are added to the list of designated places at which it is a gross misdemeanor for any person to enter while knowingly possessing a weapon:

- public libraries;
- zoos or aquariums accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums or the Zoological Association of America; and
- transit stations or transit facilities including all passenger facilities, structures, stops, shelters, bus zones, properties, and rights-of-way owned, leased held, or used by a transit authority for providing public transportation services.

The definition of transit stations and facilities does not include transit vehicles.

These prohibitions do not apply to individuals who maintain a valid conceal carry permit, correctional personnel, or the activities of color guards and honor guards, including staging and logistical requirements, related to burial or internment ceremonies.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	29	20	
House	58	36	(House amended)
Senate	27	21	(Senate concurred)

Effective: June 6, 2024