
SENATE BILL 5244

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senator Fortunato

Read first time 01/11/23. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the second amendment firearm
2 education and training (SAFE-T) act for legislators; adding a new
3 section to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** As originally conceived and adopted in
6 both the United States Constitution's second amendment and Article I,
7 section 24 of the Washington state Constitution, the people of both
8 our nation and state recognized the right to keep and bear arms to
9 protect not just themselves, but also the state and federal
10 governments from attack. The people enshrined this right in our
11 constitutions not just for the purpose of self-defense, but also for
12 the purpose of military readiness of the citizens in order to form
13 militias, should they become necessary to defend our free state. As a
14 result, the legislature finds that it is of the utmost importance
15 that each state legislator demonstrate knowledge and familiarity with
16 the safety, operation, and handling of firearms used for hunting,
17 self-protection, and, should the need arise, defense of a free state.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) By January 31st of each odd-numbered year, each legislator
2 who is eligible to possess a firearm must provide proof of completion
3 of two recognized firearm safety training programs of at least three
4 hours each, one specific to pistols and one specific to rifles, that
5 comply with the requirements in RCW 9.41.090(2)(a), within the last
6 two years. Proof of completion must be provided to the secretary of
7 the senate or the chief clerk of the house of representatives.

8 (2) Nothing in this section prohibits a legislator from
9 completing training in addition to the requirements in this section.

10 (3) Any legislator appointed to fill a vacancy who takes office
11 after January 31st of the first year of a legislative biennium must
12 comply with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section within
13 30 days of taking office.

14 (4) By February 1st of each odd-numbered year, the secretary of
15 the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives must
16 cause to be published on the official legislative website of each
17 chamber a full list of members of each chamber who have, as of that
18 date, not complied with the requirements of subsection (1) of this
19 section.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the
21 second amendment firearm education and training (SAFE-T) act.

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