
SENATE BILL 6169

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators L. Wilson, Wagoner, Fortunato, Holy, McCune, Padden, Short, Van De Wege, Wellman, and J. Wilson

Read first time 01/11/24. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the potential pool of law
2 enforcement hires by allowing active and retired law enforcement and
3 military personnel to import certain firearms for personal use;
4 amending RCW 9.41.390; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9.41.390 and 2023 c 162 s 3 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) No person in this state may manufacture, import, distribute,
9 sell, or offer for sale any assault weapon, except as authorized in
10 this section.

11 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to any of the
12 following:

13 (a) The manufacture, importation, distribution, offer for sale,
14 or sale of an assault weapon by a licensed firearms manufacturer for
15 the purposes of sale to any branch of the armed forces of the United
16 States or the state of Washington, or to any law enforcement agency
17 for use by that agency or its employees for law enforcement purposes,
18 or to a person who does not reside in this state;

19 (b) The importation, distribution, offer for sale, or sale of an
20 assault weapon by a dealer that is properly licensed under federal
21 and state law for the purpose of sale to any branch of the armed

1 forces of the United States or the state of Washington, or to a law
2 enforcement agency in this state for use by that agency or its
3 employees for law enforcement purposes;

4 (c) The distribution, offer for sale, or sale of an assault
5 weapon to or by a dealer that is properly licensed under federal and
6 state law where the dealer acquires the assault weapon from an
7 individual legally authorized to possess or transfer the assault
8 weapon for the purpose of selling or transferring the assault weapon
9 to a person who does not reside in this state. The purpose of this
10 section is to allow individuals who no longer wish to own an assault
11 weapon to sell their assault weapon and is not intended to allow
12 Washington dealers to purchase assault weapons wholesale for the
13 purpose of selling a stock or inventory of assault weapons online or
14 in person to nonresidents;

15 (d) The out-of-state sale or transfer of the existing stock of
16 assault weapons owned by a licensed dealer that was acquired prior to
17 January 1, 2023, for the limited period of 90 days after April 25,
18 2023; (~~(e)~~)

19 (e) The receipt of an assault weapon by a person who, on or after
20 April 25, 2023, acquires possession of the assault weapon by
21 operation of law upon the death of the former owner who was in legal
22 possession of the assault weapon, provided the person in possession
23 of the assault weapon can establish such provenance. Receipt under
24 this subsection (2)(e) is not "distribution" under this chapter. A
25 person who legally receives an assault weapon under this subsection
26 (2)(e) may not sell or transfer the assault weapon to any other
27 person in this state other than to a licensed dealer, to a federally
28 licensed gunsmith for the purpose of service or repair, or to a law
29 enforcement agency for the purpose of permanently relinquishing the
30 assault weapon; or

31 (f) Active and retired law enforcement officers, active duty
32 military personnel, honorably discharged veterans, and federal
33 employees who receive a change of station order or are directed to
34 move to Washington state by their respective federal agency, solely
35 for the purpose of importing and retaining for personal use, assault
36 weapons owned prior to receiving orders directing a change of station
37 or move to Washington state.

38 (3) For the purposes of this section, "law enforcement agency"
39 means any (a) general authority Washington law enforcement agency as
40 defined in RCW 10.93.020; (b) limited authority Washington law

1 enforcement agency as defined in RCW 10.93.020; or (c) equivalent
2 federal, state, or local law enforcement agency in the United States.

3 (4) A person who violates this section is guilty of a gross
4 misdemeanor.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
7 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
8 effect immediately.

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