

Weekly Legislative Update: Gun Safety

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Gun safety bills appear to be moving very slowly or not at all. There is an **Action Alert** for requesting the Senate Ways & Means Committee to pass **SB 5078, Protecting public safety by establishing duties of firearm industry members**, on to the Rules Committee. Please take action [here](#) if you did not do so on the front page of this week's newsletter.

Update on Other Bills

[HB 1143/SB 5211](#) Concerning requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms, would require an approved safety training course within five years, fingerprinting, and background check in addition to a 10-day waiting period before a dealer can hand over a firearm. These requirements are similar to those for a concealed weapons permit. Fourteen states have similar requirements and have found that they have reduced fatalities by 14%. The requirements could also interrupt suicide attempts, which are often impulsive decisions. Suicides constitute 75% of gun deaths in Washington. Opponents say the requirements violate Second Amendment protections. **HB 1143** was referred as a Substitute to the House Appropriations Committee and had a public hearing on February 8 but has not been scheduled for executive session yet. It will need to pass that committee by Friday, February 24 to remain active. **SB 5211** has not had a public hearing and has died.

[HB 1144/SB 5232](#) Enhancing requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms, would require background checks go through the Washington State Patrol rather than local law enforcement agencies. **HB 1144** had a public hearing but there was no action taken at the subsequent executive session. **SB 5232** passed the Senate Law & Justice Committee and has been referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. It will need to pass that committee by Friday, February 24 to remain active.

[HB 1178/SB 5446](#) Concerning local government authority to regulate firearms, would grant local government authority to regulate firearms and where they can be present. This would change the current pre-emption of firearms regulation. Opponents say that the bill would create a patchwork of regulations and gun owners would need to research restrictions in multiple jurisdictions. On the Pro side, different cities and towns have differing conditions regarding use of firearms. **HB 1178** had a public hearing in the House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee on January 27 and executive session on February 3, but no action was taken.

SB 5446 has not had a public hearing and has died.

HB 1195 Prohibiting the open carry of certain weapons in public parks and public hospitals.

This bill had a public hearing on January 18. No action was taken in executive session on January 27.

HB 1240/SB 5265 Establishing firearms-related safety measures to increase public safety, would essentially ban the manufacture, distribution, and purchase of assault-type weapons which have been used in most mass shootings. The weapons specified in the bill are variations of military weapons designed to kill as many persons as possible in the shortest time period. Washington would become the tenth state to ban assault weapons if the bill passes. This is the sixth year a ban on assault weapons has been proposed by the Attorney General. **HB 1240** was passed as a substitute from the House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee and is now in the House Rules Committee. The amendment allows a Tacoma manufacturer to continue manufacture of accessories to be sold out of state. **SB 5265** has not had a public hearing and has died.

HB 1562 Reducing the risks of lethality and other harm associated with gun violence, gender-based violence, and other types of violence. This bill concerns procedures regarding restoration of right to purchase firearms after period of revocation. It passed the House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee as a substitute on February 17 but has not been referred to the House Rules Committee yet.

HB 1600 Providing access to sealed juvenile records for firearm purposes would allow any law enforcement agency access to sealed juvenile records but only for background check purposes regarding prior convictions and mental health checks before a person could purchase or transfer a firearm. This bill passed the House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee as a substitute and is now in the House Rules Committee.

How You Can Be Involved

- Respond to Action Alerts in the legislative newsletter. These will primarily appear in the section of the newsletter related to Gun Safety
- Contacting Cynthia Stewart, cstewart@lwvwa.org.