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SENATE BILL 5634

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove and Stevens; by request of Department of Social and Health Services

Read first time 02/02/11. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying the entities to be consulted when
- 2 determining eligibility to possess a firearm; amending RCW 9.41.047,
- 3 9.41.090, and 9.41.173; and reenacting and amending RCW 9.41.070.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 5 Sec. 1. RCW 9.41.047 and 2009 c 293 s 2 are each amended to read 6 as follows:
- 7 (1) At the time a person is convicted or found not guilty by reason 8 of insanity of an offense making the person ineligible to possess a
- 9 firearm, or at the time a person is committed by court order under RCW
- 10 71.05.240, 71.05.320, 71.34.740, 71.34.750, or chapter 10.77 RCW for
- 11 mental health treatment, the convicting or committing court shall
- 12 notify the person, orally and in writing, that the person must
- immediately surrender any concealed pistol license and that the person
- 14 may not possess a firearm unless his or her right to do so is restored
- 15 by a court of record. For purposes of this section a convicting court
- 16 includes a court in which a person has been found not guilty by reason
- 17 of insanity.
- 18 The convicting or committing court shall forward within three
- 19 judicial days after conviction or entry of the commitment order a copy

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- of the person's driver's license or identicard, or comparable 1 2 information, along with the date of conviction or commitment, to the department of licensing. When a person is committed by court order 3 4 under RCW 71.05.240, 71.05.320, 71.34.740, 71.34.750, or chapter 10.77 5 RCW, for mental health treatment, the committing court also shall forward, within three judicial days after entry of the commitment 6 7 order, a copy of the person's driver's license, or comparable 8 information, along with the date of commitment, to the national instant criminal background check system index, denied persons file, created by 9 10 the federal Brady handoun violence prevention act (P.L. 103-159).
 - (2) Upon receipt of the information provided for by subsection (1) of this section, the department of licensing shall determine if the convicted or committed person has a concealed pistol license. If the person does have a concealed pistol license, the department of licensing shall immediately notify the license-issuing authority which, upon receipt of such notification, shall immediately revoke the license.
 - (3)(a) A person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm, by reason of having been involuntarily committed for mental health treatment under RCW 71.05.240, 71.05.320, 71.34.740, 71.34.750, chapter 10.77 RCW, or equivalent statutes of another jurisdiction may, upon discharge, petition the superior court to have his or her right to possess a firearm restored.
 - (b) The petition may be brought in the superior court that ordered the involuntary commitment or the superior court of the county in which the petitioner resides.
 - (c) Except as provided in (d) of this subsection, the court shall restore the petitioner's right to possess a firearm if the petitioner proves by a preponderance of the evidence that:
- 30 (i) The petitioner is no longer required to participate in court-31 ordered inpatient or outpatient treatment;
- 32 (ii) The petitioner has successfully managed the condition related 33 to the commitment;
- 34 (iii) The petitioner no longer presents a substantial danger to 35 himself or herself, or the public; and
- 36 (iv) The symptoms related to the commitment are not reasonably 37 likely to recur.

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(d) If a preponderance of the evidence in the record supports a finding that the person petitioning the court has engaged in violence and that it is more likely than not that the person will engage in violence after his or her right to possess a firearm is restored, the person shall bear the burden of proving by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that he or she does not present a substantial danger to the safety of others.

- (e) When a person's right to possess a firearm has been restored under this subsection, the court shall forward, within three judicial days after entry of the restoration order, notification that the person's right to possess a firearm has been restored to the department of licensing((, the department of social and health services,)) and the national instant criminal background check system index, denied persons file.
- 15 (4) No person who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity 16 may petition a court for restoration of the right to possess a firearm 17 unless the person meets the requirements for the restoration of the 18 right to possess a firearm under RCW 9.41.040(4).
- **Sec. 2.** RCW 9.41.070 and 2009 c 216 s 5 and 2009 c 59 s 1 are each 20 reenacted and amended to read as follows:
 - (1) The chief of police of a municipality or the sheriff of a county shall within thirty days after the filing of an application of any person, issue a license to such person to carry a pistol concealed on his or her person within this state for five years from date of issue, for the purposes of protection or while engaged in business, sport, or while traveling. However, if the applicant does not have a valid permanent Washington driver's license or Washington state identification card or has not been a resident of the state for the previous consecutive ninety days, the issuing authority shall have up to sixty days after the filing of the application to issue a license. The issuing authority shall not refuse to accept completed applications for concealed pistol licenses during regular business hours.
- 33 The applicant's constitutional right to bear arms shall not be 34 denied, unless:
- 35 (a) He or she is ineligible to possess a firearm under the 36 provisions of RCW 9.41.040 or 9.41.045;

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- 1 (b) The applicant's concealed pistol license is in a revoked 2 status;
 - (c) He or she is under twenty-one years of age;

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- 4 (d) He or she is subject to a court order or injunction regarding 5 firearms pursuant to RCW 9A.46.080, 10.14.080, 10.99.040, 10.99.045, 6 26.09.050, 26.09.060, 26.10.040, 26.10.115, 26.26.130, 26.50.060, 7 26.50.070, or 26.26.590;
- 8 (e) He or she is free on bond or personal recognizance pending 9 trial, appeal, or sentencing for a felony offense;
 - (f) He or she has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest from any court of competent jurisdiction for a felony or misdemeanor; or
- 12 (g) He or she has been ordered to forfeit a firearm under RCW 9.41.098(1)(e) within one year before filing an application to carry a pistol concealed on his or her person.

No person convicted of a felony may have his or her right to possess firearms restored or his or her privilege to carry a concealed pistol restored, unless the person has been granted relief from disabilities by the attorney general under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 925(c), or RCW 9.41.040 (3) or (4) applies.

- (2) The issuing authority shall ((check with the national crime information center, the Washington state patrol electronic database, the department of social and health services electronic database)) conduct a check through the national instant criminal background check system, the Washington crime information center, the department of licensing, and ((with)) other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine whether the applicant is ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 or 9.41.045 to possess a firearm and therefore ineligible for a concealed pistol license. This subsection applies whether the applicant is applying for a new concealed pistol license or to renew a concealed pistol license.
- (3) Any person whose firearms rights have been restricted and who has been granted relief from disabilities by the attorney general under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 925(c) or who is exempt under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921(a)(20)(A) shall have his or her right to acquire, receive, transfer, ship, transport, carry, and possess firearms in accordance with Washington state law restored except as otherwise prohibited by this chapter.

(4) The license application shall bear the full name, residential address, telephone number at the option of the applicant, date and place of birth, race, gender, description, a complete set of fingerprints, and signature of the licensee, and the licensee's driver's license number or state identification card number if used for identification in applying for the license. A signed application for a concealed pistol license shall constitute a waiver of confidentiality and written request that the department of social and health services, mental health institutions, and other health care facilities release information relevant to the applicant's eligibility for a concealed pistol license to an inquiring court or law enforcement agency.

The application for an original license shall include two complete sets of fingerprints to be forwarded to the Washington state patrol.

The license and application shall contain a warning substantially as follows:

CAUTION: Although state and local laws do not differ, federal law and state law on the possession of firearms differ. If you are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you may be prosecuted in federal court. A state license is not a defense to a federal prosecution.

The license shall contain a description of the major differences between state and federal law and an explanation of the fact that local laws and ordinances on firearms are preempted by state law and must be consistent with state law. The application shall contain questions about the applicant's eligibility under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a pistol, the applicant's place of birth, and whether the applicant is a United States citizen. The applicant shall not be required to produce a birth certificate or other evidence of citizenship. A person who is not a citizen of the United States shall, if applicable, meet the additional requirements of RCW 9.41.173 and produce proof of compliance with RCW 9.41.173 upon application. The license may be in triplicate or in a form to be prescribed by the department of licensing.

The original thereof shall be delivered to the licensee, the duplicate shall within seven days be sent to the director of licensing and the triplicate shall be preserved for six years, by the authority issuing the license.

The department of licensing shall make available to law enforcement

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1 and corrections agencies, in an on-line format, all information 2 received under this subsection.

(5) The nonrefundable fee, paid upon application, for the original five-year license shall be thirty-six dollars plus additional charges imposed by the federal bureau of investigation that are passed on to the applicant. No other state or local branch or unit of government may impose any additional charges on the applicant for the issuance of the license.

The fee shall be distributed as follows:

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- (a) Fifteen dollars shall be paid to the state general fund;
- (b) Four dollars shall be paid to the agency taking the fingerprints of the person licensed;
- 13 (c) Fourteen dollars shall be paid to the issuing authority for the 14 purpose of enforcing this chapter; and
- 15 (d) Three dollars to the firearms range account in the general fund.
 - (6) The nonrefundable fee for the renewal of such license shall be thirty-two dollars. No other branch or unit of government may impose any additional charges on the applicant for the renewal of the license.

The renewal fee shall be distributed as follows:

- (a) Fifteen dollars shall be paid to the state general fund;
- 22 (b) Fourteen dollars shall be paid to the issuing authority for the 23 purpose of enforcing this chapter; and
 - (c) Three dollars to the firearms range account in the general fund.
 - (7) The nonrefundable fee for replacement of lost or damaged licenses is ten dollars to be paid to the issuing authority.
 - (8) Payment shall be by cash, check, or money order at the option of the applicant. Additional methods of payment may be allowed at the option of the issuing authority.
 - (9) A licensee may renew a license if the licensee applies for renewal within ninety days before or after the expiration date of the license. A license so renewed shall take effect on the expiration date of the prior license. A licensee renewing after the expiration date of the license must pay a late renewal penalty of ten dollars in addition to the renewal fee specified in subsection (6) of this section. The fee shall be distributed as follows:

(a) Three dollars shall be deposited in the state wildlife account and used exclusively first for the printing and distribution of a pamphlet on the legal limits of the use of firearms, firearms safety, and the preemptive nature of state law, and subsequently the support of volunteer instructors in the basic firearms safety training program conducted by the department of fish and wildlife. The pamphlet shall be given to each applicant for a license; and

- (b) Seven dollars shall be paid to the issuing authority for the purpose of enforcing this chapter.
- (10) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (1) through (9) of this section, the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county of the applicant's residence may issue a temporary emergency license for good cause pending review under subsection (1) of this section. However, a temporary emergency license issued under this subsection shall not exempt the holder of the license from any records check requirement. Temporary emergency licenses shall be easily distinguishable from regular licenses.
- (11) A political subdivision of the state shall not modify the requirements of this section or chapter, nor may a political subdivision ask the applicant to voluntarily submit any information not required by this section.
- (12) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding citizenship or identity on an application for a concealed pistol license is guilty of false swearing under RCW 9A.72.040. In addition to any other penalty provided for by law, the concealed pistol license of a person who knowingly makes a false statement shall be revoked, and the person shall be permanently ineligible for a concealed pistol license.
 - (13) A person may apply for a concealed pistol license:
- 30 (a) To the municipality or to the county in which the applicant 31 resides if the applicant resides in a municipality;
- 32 (b) To the county in which the applicant resides if the applicant resides in an unincorporated area; or
 - (c) Anywhere in the state if the applicant is a nonresident.
 - (14) Any person who, as a member of the armed forces, including the national guard and armed forces reserves, is unable to renew his or her license under subsections (6) and (9) of this section because of the person's assignment, reassignment, or deployment for out-of-state

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military service may renew his or her license within ninety days after the person returns to this state from out-of-state military service, if the person provides the following to the issuing authority no later than ninety days after the person's date of discharge or assignment, reassignment, or deployment back to this state: (a) A copy of the person's original order designating the specific period of assignment, reassignment, or deployment for out-of-state military service, and (b) if appropriate, a copy of the person's discharge or amended or subsequent assignment, reassignment, or deployment order back to this A license so renewed under this subsection (14) shall take effect on the expiration date of the prior license. A licensee renewing after the expiration date of the license under this subsection (14) shall pay only the renewal fee specified in subsection (6) of this section and shall not be required to pay a late renewal penalty in addition to the renewal fee.

- Sec. 3. RCW 9.41.090 and 1996 c 295 s 8 are each amended to read as follows:
- (1) In addition to the other requirements of this chapter, no dealer may deliver a pistol to the purchaser thereof until:
- (a) The purchaser produces a valid concealed pistol license and the dealer has recorded the purchaser's name, license number, and issuing agency, such record to be made in triplicate and processed as provided in subsection (5) of this section. For purposes of this subsection (1)(a), a "valid concealed pistol license" does not include a temporary emergency license, and does not include any license issued before July 1, 1996, unless the issuing agency conducted a records search for disqualifying crimes under RCW 9.41.070 at the time of issuance;
- (b) The dealer is notified in writing by the chief of police or the sheriff of the jurisdiction in which the purchaser resides that the purchaser is eligible to possess a pistol under RCW 9.41.040 and that the application to purchase is approved by the chief of police or sheriff; or
- (c) Five business days, meaning days on which state offices are open, have elapsed from the time of receipt of the application for the purchase thereof as provided herein by the chief of police or sheriff designated in subsection (5) of this section, and, when delivered, the pistol shall be securely wrapped and shall be unloaded. However, if

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the purchaser does not have a valid permanent Washington driver's license or state identification card or has not been a resident of the state for the previous consecutive ninety days, the waiting period under this subsection (1)(c) shall be up to sixty days.

- (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, in determining whether the purchaser meets the requirements of RCW 9.41.040, the chief of police or sheriff, or the designee of either, shall ((check with the national crime information center, the Washington state patrol electronic database, the department of social and health services electronic database)) conduct a check through the national instant criminal background check system, the Washington crime information center, the department of licensing, and ((with)) other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine whether the applicant is ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a firearm.
- (b) Once the system is established, a dealer shall use the state system and national instant criminal background check system, provided for by the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. Sec. 921 et seq.), to make criminal background checks of applicants to purchase firearms. However, a chief of police or sheriff, or a designee of either, shall continue to check ((the department of social and health services' electronic database and)) with other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine whether applicants are ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a firearm.
- (3) In any case under subsection (1)(c) of this section where the applicant has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest from any court of competent jurisdiction for a felony or misdemeanor, the dealer shall hold the delivery of the pistol until the warrant for arrest is served and satisfied by appropriate court appearance. The local jurisdiction for purposes of the sale shall confirm the existence of outstanding warrants within seventy-two hours after notification of the application to purchase a pistol is received. The local jurisdiction shall also immediately confirm the satisfaction of the warrant on request of the dealer so that the hold may be released if the warrant was for an offense other than an offense making a person ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a pistol.
- (4) In any case where the chief or sheriff of the local jurisdiction has reasonable grounds based on the following circumstances: (a) Open criminal charges, (b) pending criminal

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proceedings, (c) pending commitment proceedings, (d) an outstanding 1 2 warrant for an offense making a person ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a pistol, or (e) an arrest for an offense making a person 3 ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a pistol, if the records of 4 disposition have not yet been reported or entered sufficiently to 5 determine eligibility to purchase a pistol, the local jurisdiction may 6 7 hold the sale and delivery of the pistol beyond five days up to thirty 8 days in order to confirm existing records in this state or elsewhere. After thirty days, the hold will be lifted unless an extension of the 9 10 thirty days is approved by a local district court or municipal court for good cause shown. A dealer shall be notified of each hold placed 11 12 on the sale by local law enforcement and of any application to the 13 court for additional hold period to confirm records or confirm the 14 identity of the applicant.

(5) At the time of applying for the purchase of a pistol, the purchaser shall sign in triplicate and deliver to the dealer an application containing his or her full name, residential address, date and place of birth, race, and gender; the date and hour of the application; the applicant's driver's license number or state identification card number; a description of the pistol including the make, model, caliber and manufacturer's number if available at the time of applying for the purchase of a pistol. If the manufacturer's number is not available, the application may be processed, but delivery of the pistol to the purchaser may not occur unless the manufacturer's number is recorded on the application by the dealer and transmitted to the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county in which the purchaser resides; and a statement that the purchaser is eligible to possess a pistol under RCW 9.41.040.

The application shall contain a warning substantially as follows:

CAUTION: Although state and local laws do not differ, federal law and state law on the possession of firearms differ. If you are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you may be prosecuted in federal court. State permission to purchase a firearm is not a defense to a federal prosecution.

The purchaser shall be given a copy of the department of fish and wildlife pamphlet on the legal limits of the use of firearms, firearms safety, and the fact that local laws and ordinances on firearms are preempted by state law and must be consistent with state law.

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The dealer shall, by the end of the business day, sign and attach his or her address and deliver a copy of the application and such other documentation as required under subsection (1) of this section to the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county of which the purchaser is a resident. The triplicate shall be retained by the dealer for six years. The dealer shall deliver the pistol to the purchaser following the period of time specified in this section unless the dealer is notified of an investigative hold under subsection (4) of this section in writing by the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county, whichever is applicable, denying the purchaser's application to purchase and the grounds thereof. The application shall not be denied unless the purchaser is not eligible to possess a pistol under RCW 9.41.040 or 9.41.045, or federal law.

The chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county shall retain or destroy applications to purchase a pistol in accordance with the requirements of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 922.

- (6) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding identity or eligibility requirements on the application to purchase a pistol is guilty of false swearing under RCW 9A.72.040.
- 20 (7) This section does not apply to sales to licensed dealers for 21 resale or to the sale of antique firearms.
- **Sec. 4.** RCW 9.41.173 and 2009 c 216 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) In order to obtain an alien firearm license, a nonimmigrant alien residing in Washington must apply to the sheriff of the county in which he or she resides.
 - (2) The sheriff of the county shall within sixty days after the filing of an application of a nonimmigrant alien residing in the state of Washington, issue an alien firearm license to such person to carry or possess a firearm for the purposes of hunting and sport shooting. The license shall be good for two years. The issuing authority shall not refuse to accept completed applications for alien firearm licenses during regular business hours. An application for a license may not be denied, unless the applicant's alien firearm license is in a revoked status, or the applicant:
- 36 (a) Is ineligible to possess a firearm under the provisions of RCW 9.41.040 or 9.41.045;

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1 (b) Is subject to a court order or injunction regarding firearms
2 pursuant to RCW 9A.46.080, 10.14.080, 10.99.040, 10.99.045, 26.09.050,
3 26.09.060, 26.10.040, 26.10.115, 26.26.130, 26.50.060, 26.50.070, or
4 26.26.590;

- (c) Is free on bond or personal recognizance pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a felony offense; or
- (d) Has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest from any court of competent jurisdiction for a felony or misdemeanor.

No license application shall be granted to a nonimmigrant alien convicted of a felony unless the person has been granted relief from disabilities by the attorney general under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 925(c), or unless RCW 9.41.040 (3) or (4) applies.

- (3) The sheriff shall ((check with the national crime information center, the Washington state patrol electronic database, the department of social and health services electronic database)) conduct a check through the national instant criminal background check system, the Washington crime information center, the department of licensing, and ((with)) other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine whether the applicant is ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 or 9.41.045 to possess a firearm.
- (4) The license application shall bear the full name, residential address, telephone number at the option of the applicant, date and place of birth, race, gender, description, not more than two complete sets of fingerprints, and signature of the applicant, a copy of the applicant's passport and visa showing the applicant is in the country legally, and a valid Washington hunting license or documentation that the applicant is a member of a sport shooting club.

A signed application for an alien firearm license shall constitute a waiver of confidentiality and written request that the department of social and health services, mental health institutions, and other health care facilities release information relevant to the applicant's eligibility for an alien firearm license to an inquiring court or law enforcement agency.

The application for an original license shall include a complete set of fingerprints to be forwarded to the Washington state patrol.

The license and application shall contain a warning substantially as follows:

CAUTION: Although state and local laws do not differ, federal

law and state law on the possession of firearms differ. If you are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you may be prosecuted in federal court. A state license is not a defense to a federal prosecution.

The license shall contain a description of the major differences between state and federal law and an explanation of the fact that local laws and ordinances on firearms are preempted by state law and must be consistent with state law. The application shall contain questions about the applicant's eligibility under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a firearm. The nonimmigrant alien applicant shall be required to produce a passport and visa as evidence of being in the country legally.

The license may be in triplicate or in a form to be prescribed by the department of licensing. The original thereof shall be delivered to the licensee, the duplicate shall within seven days be sent to the director of licensing and the triplicate shall be preserved for six years, by the authority issuing the license.

The department of licensing shall make available to law enforcement and corrections agencies, in an online format, all information received under this section.

- (5) The sheriff has the authority to collect a nonrefundable fee, paid upon application, for the two-year license. The fee shall be fifty dollars plus additional charges imposed by the Washington state patrol and the federal bureau of investigation that are passed on to the applicant. No other state or local branch or unit of government may impose any additional charges on the applicant for the issuance of the license. The fee shall be retained by the sheriff.
- (6) Payment shall be by cash, check, or money order at the option of the applicant. Additional methods of payment may be allowed at the option of the sheriff.
- (7) A political subdivision of the state shall not modify the requirements of this section, nor may a political subdivision ask the applicant to voluntarily submit any information not required by this section.
- (8) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding citizenship or identity on an application for an alien firearm license is guilty of false swearing under RCW 9A.72.040. In addition to any other penalty provided for by law, the alien firearm license of a

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- 1 person who knowingly makes a false statement shall be revoked, and the
- 2 person shall be permanently ineligible for an alien firearm license.

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