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**HOUSE BILL 1776**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Volz and Schmidt

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the firearm fee liability and  
2 refund act; adding a new section to chapter 43.43 RCW; and creating a  
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the  
6 unavailability of the secure automated firearms e-check (SAFE)  
7 background check system for firearm transfers in November 2024  
8 resulted in inconvenience and likely significant economic loss to  
9 firearms purchasers and licensed firearms dealers in Washington  
10 state, in addition to the possible denial of legal firearms purchases  
11 or transfers to Washington residents. The legislature further finds  
12 that a refund of background check fees should be provided to firearms  
13 purchasers, and to licensed firearms dealers who covered the costs of  
14 background check fees for purchasers, for fees collected during the  
15 time period the SAFE background check system was unable to access the  
16 administrative office of the courts data system for the purpose of  
17 completing background checks during November 2024.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.43  
19 RCW to read as follows:

1       The Washington state patrol firearms background check program  
2 shall provide reimbursement of firearm background check fees charged  
3 under RCW 43.43.580 during the period that the secure automated  
4 firearms e-check (SAFE) background check system was unable to access  
5 the administrative office of the courts data system for the purpose  
6 of completing background checks during the month of November 2024.  
7 The Washington state patrol firearms background check program shall  
8 establish a process to provide reimbursement to: Any applicant for  
9 the purchase or transfer of a firearm who paid background check fees  
10 during this time period; and any licensed firearms dealer who  
11 provides documentation that the dealer covered the cost of background  
12 check fees for applicants applying for the purchase or transfer of a  
13 firearm during this time period. The Washington state patrol firearms  
14 background check program may provide reimbursement from funds in the  
15 state firearms background check system account created in RCW  
16 43.43.590.

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