
SENATE BILL 6297

State of Washington

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By Senators Dhingra, Palumbo, Darneille, Mullet, Saldaña, Takko, Frockt, Rolfes, Kuderer, Cleveland, Chase, Carlyle, Wellman, Hasegawa, Ranker, Keiser, Lias, Billig, Nelson, McCoy, and Van De Wege

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1 AN ACT Relating to provisions governing firearms possession by
2 persons who have been found incompetent to stand trial and who have a
3 history of one or more violent acts; amending RCW 10.77.088,
4 9.41.040, and 9.41.047; and prescribing penalties.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 10.77.088 and 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 411 are each amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) If the defendant is charged with a nonfelony crime which
9 is a serious offense as identified in RCW 10.77.092 and found by the
10 court to be not competent, then the court:

11 (i) Shall commit the defendant to the custody of the secretary
12 who shall place such defendant in an appropriate facility of the
13 department for evaluation and treatment;

14 (ii) May alternatively order the defendant to undergo evaluation
15 and treatment at some other facility or provider as determined by the
16 department, or under the guidance and control of a professional
17 person. The facilities or providers may include community mental
18 health providers or other local facilities that contract with the
19 department and are willing and able to provide treatment under this
20 section. During the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, the department may
21 contract with one or more cities or counties to provide competency

1 restoration services in a city or county jail if the city or county
2 jail is willing and able to serve as a location for competency
3 restoration services and if the secretary determines that there is an
4 emergent need for beds and documents the justification, including a
5 plan to address the emergency. Patients receiving competency
6 restoration services in a city or county jail must be physically
7 separated from other populations at the jail and restoration
8 treatment services must be provided as much as possible within a
9 therapeutic environment. The placement under (a)(i) and (ii) of this
10 subsection shall not exceed fourteen days in addition to any unused
11 time of the evaluation under RCW 10.77.060. The court shall compute
12 this total period and include its computation in the order. The
13 fourteen-day period plus any unused time of the evaluation under RCW
14 10.77.060 shall be considered to include only the time the defendant
15 is actually at the facility and shall be in addition to reasonable
16 time for transport to or from the facility;

17 (iii) May alternatively order that the defendant be placed on
18 conditional release for up to ninety days for mental health treatment
19 and restoration of competency; or

20 (iv) May order any combination of this subsection.

21 (b) If the court has determined or the parties agree that the
22 defendant is unlikely to regain competency, the court may dismiss the
23 charges without prejudice without ordering the defendant to undergo
24 restoration treatment, in which case the court shall order that the
25 defendant be referred for evaluation for civil commitment in the
26 manner provided in (c) of this subsection.

27 (c)(i) If the proceedings are dismissed under RCW 10.77.084 and
28 the defendant was on conditional release at the time of dismissal,
29 the court shall order the designated crisis responder within that
30 county to evaluate the defendant pursuant to chapter 71.05 RCW. The
31 evaluation may be conducted in any location chosen by the
32 professional.

33 (ii) If the defendant was in custody and not on conditional
34 release at the time of dismissal, the defendant shall be detained and
35 sent to an evaluation and treatment facility for up to seventy-two
36 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, for evaluation for
37 purposes of filing a petition under chapter 71.05 RCW. The seventy-
38 two hour period shall commence upon the next nonholiday weekday
39 following the court order and shall run to the end of the last
40 nonholiday weekday within the seventy-two-hour period.

1 (2) If the defendant is charged with a nonfelony crime that is
2 not a serious offense as defined in RCW 10.77.092((+)) and found by
3 the court to be not competent, the court may stay or dismiss
4 proceedings and detain the defendant for sufficient time to allow the
5 designated crisis responder to evaluate the defendant and consider
6 initial detention proceedings under chapter 71.05 RCW. The court must
7 give notice to all parties at least twenty-four hours before the
8 dismissal of any proceeding under this subsection, and provide an
9 opportunity for a hearing on whether to dismiss the proceedings.

10 (3) If at any time the court dismisses charges under subsection
11 (1) or (2) of this section, the court shall make a finding as to
12 whether the defendant has a history of one or more violent acts. If
13 the court so finds, the defendant is barred from the possession of
14 firearms until a court restores his or her right to possess a firearm
15 under RCW 9.41.047. The court shall state to the defendant and
16 provide written notice that the defendant is barred from the
17 possession of firearms and that the prohibition remains in effect
18 until a court restores his or her right to possess a firearm under
19 RCW 9.41.047.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9.41.040 and 2017 c 233 s 4 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 (1)(a) A person, whether an adult or juvenile, is guilty of the
23 crime of unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree, if the
24 person owns, has in his or her possession, or has in his or her
25 control any firearm after having previously been convicted or found
26 not guilty by reason of insanity in this state or elsewhere of any
27 serious offense as defined in this chapter.

28 (b) Unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree is a
29 class B felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

30 (2)(a) A person, whether an adult or juvenile, is guilty of the
31 crime of unlawful possession of a firearm in the second degree, if
32 the person does not qualify under subsection (1) of this section for
33 the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree and
34 the person owns, has in his or her possession, or has in his or her
35 control any firearm:

36 (i) After having previously been convicted or found not guilty by
37 reason of insanity in this state or elsewhere of any felony not
38 specifically listed as prohibiting firearm possession under
39 subsection (1) of this section, or any of the following crimes when

1 committed by one family or household member against another,
2 committed on or after July 1, 1993: Assault in the fourth degree,
3 coercion, stalking, reckless endangerment, criminal trespass in the
4 first degree, or violation of the provisions of a protection order or
5 no-contact order restraining the person or excluding the person from
6 a residence (RCW 26.50.060, 26.50.070, 26.50.130, or 10.99.040);

7 (ii) During any period of time that the person is subject to a
8 court order issued under chapter 7.90, 7.92, 9A.46, 10.14, 10.99,
9 26.09, 26.10, 26.26, or 26.50 RCW that:

10 (A) Was issued after a hearing of which the person received
11 actual notice, and at which the person had an opportunity to
12 participate;

13 (B) Restrains the person from harassing, stalking, or threatening
14 an intimate partner of the person or child of the intimate partner or
15 person, or engaging in other conduct that would place an intimate
16 partner in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the partner or child;
17 and

18 (C)(I) Includes a finding that the person represents a credible
19 threat to the physical safety of the intimate partner or child; and

20 (II) By its terms, explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use,
21 or threatened use of physical force against the intimate partner or
22 child that would reasonably be expected to cause bodily injury;

23 (iii) After having previously been involuntarily committed for
24 mental health treatment under RCW 71.05.240, 71.05.320, 71.34.740,
25 71.34.750, chapter 10.77 RCW, or equivalent statutes of another
26 jurisdiction, unless his or her right to possess a firearm has been
27 restored as provided in RCW 9.41.047;

28 (iv) After dismissal of criminal charges based on incompetency to
29 stand trial under RCW 10.77.088 when the court has made a finding
30 indicating that the defendant has a history of one or more violent
31 acts, unless his or her right to possess a firearm has been restored
32 as provided in RCW 9.41.047;

33 (v) If the person is under eighteen years of age, except as
34 provided in RCW 9.41.042; and/or

35 ((~~v~~)) (vi) If the person is free on bond or personal
36 recognizance pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a serious
37 offense as defined in RCW 9.41.010.

38 (b) (a)(ii) of this subsection does not apply to a sexual assault
39 protection order under chapter 7.90 RCW if the order has been

1 modified pursuant to RCW 7.90.170 to remove any restrictions on
2 firearm purchase, transfer, or possession.

3 (c) Unlawful possession of a firearm in the second degree is a
4 class C felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

5 (3) Notwithstanding RCW 9.41.047 or any other provisions of law,
6 as used in this chapter, a person has been "convicted", whether in an
7 adult court or adjudicated in a juvenile court, at such time as a
8 plea of guilty has been accepted, or a verdict of guilty has been
9 filed, notwithstanding the pendency of any future proceedings
10 including but not limited to sentencing or disposition, post-trial or
11 post-fact-finding motions, and appeals. Conviction includes a
12 dismissal entered after a period of probation, suspension or deferral
13 of sentence, and also includes equivalent dispositions by courts in
14 jurisdictions other than Washington state. A person shall not be
15 precluded from possession of a firearm if the conviction has been the
16 subject of a pardon, annulment, certificate of rehabilitation, or
17 other equivalent procedure based on a finding of the rehabilitation
18 of the person convicted or the conviction or disposition has been the
19 subject of a pardon, annulment, or other equivalent procedure based
20 on a finding of innocence. Where no record of the court's disposition
21 of the charges can be found, there shall be a rebuttable presumption
22 that the person was not convicted of the charge.

23 (4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) or (2) of this section, a
24 person convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of an
25 offense prohibiting the possession of a firearm under this section
26 other than murder, manslaughter, robbery, rape, indecent liberties,
27 arson, assault, kidnapping, extortion, burglary, or violations with
28 respect to controlled substances under RCW 69.50.401 and 69.50.410,
29 who received a probationary sentence under RCW 9.95.200, and who
30 received a dismissal of the charge under RCW 9.95.240, shall not be
31 precluded from possession of a firearm as a result of the conviction
32 or finding of not guilty by reason of insanity. Notwithstanding any
33 other provisions of this section, if a person is prohibited from
34 possession of a firearm under subsection (1) or (2) of this section
35 and has not previously been convicted or found not guilty by reason
36 of insanity of a sex offense prohibiting firearm ownership under
37 subsection (1) or (2) of this section and/or any felony defined under
38 any law as a class A felony or with a maximum sentence of at least
39 twenty years, or both, the individual may petition a court of record
40 to have his or her right to possess a firearm restored:

1 (i) Under RCW 9.41.047; and/or

2 (ii)(A) If the conviction or finding of not guilty by reason of
3 insanity was for a felony offense, after five or more consecutive
4 years in the community without being convicted or found not guilty by
5 reason of insanity or currently charged with any felony, gross
6 misdemeanor, or misdemeanor crimes, if the individual has no prior
7 felony convictions that prohibit the possession of a firearm counted
8 as part of the offender score under RCW 9.94A.525; or

9 (B) If the conviction or finding of not guilty by reason of
10 insanity was for a nonfelony offense, after three or more consecutive
11 years in the community without being convicted or found not guilty by
12 reason of insanity or currently charged with any felony, gross
13 misdemeanor, or misdemeanor crimes, if the individual has no prior
14 felony convictions that prohibit the possession of a firearm counted
15 as part of the offender score under RCW 9.94A.525 and the individual
16 has completed all conditions of the sentence.

17 (b) An individual may petition a court of record to have his or
18 her right to possess a firearm restored under (a) of this subsection
19 (4) only at:

20 (i) The court of record that ordered the petitioner's prohibition
21 on possession of a firearm; or

22 (ii) The superior court in the county in which the petitioner
23 resides.

24 (5) In addition to any other penalty provided for by law, if a
25 person under the age of eighteen years is found by a court to have
26 possessed a firearm in a vehicle in violation of subsection (1) or
27 (2) of this section or to have committed an offense while armed with
28 a firearm during which offense a motor vehicle served an integral
29 function, the court shall notify the department of licensing within
30 twenty-four hours and the person's privilege to drive shall be
31 revoked under RCW 46.20.265, unless the offense is the juvenile's
32 first offense in violation of this section and has not committed an
33 offense while armed with a firearm, an unlawful possession of a
34 firearm offense, or an offense in violation of chapter 66.44, 69.52,
35 69.41, or 69.50 RCW.

36 (6) Nothing in chapter 129, Laws of 1995 shall ever be construed
37 or interpreted as preventing an offender from being charged and
38 subsequently convicted for the separate felony crimes of theft of a
39 firearm or possession of a stolen firearm, or both, in addition to
40 being charged and subsequently convicted under this section for

1 unlawful possession of a firearm in the first or second degree.
2 Notwithstanding any other law, if the offender is convicted under
3 this section for unlawful possession of a firearm in the first or
4 second degree and for the felony crimes of theft of a firearm or
5 possession of a stolen firearm, or both, then the offender shall
6 serve consecutive sentences for each of the felony crimes of
7 conviction listed in this subsection.

8 (7) Each firearm unlawfully possessed under this section shall be
9 a separate offense.

10 (8) For purposes of this section, "intimate partner" includes: A
11 spouse, a domestic partner, a former spouse, a former domestic
12 partner, a person with whom the restrained person has a child in
13 common, or a person with whom the restrained person has cohabitated
14 or is cohabitating as part of a dating relationship.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 9.41.047 and 2016 c 93 s 1 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1)(a) At the time a person is convicted or found not guilty by
18 reason of insanity of an offense making the person ineligible to
19 possess a firearm, or at the time a person is committed by court
20 order under RCW 71.05.240, 71.05.320, 71.34.740, 71.34.750, or
21 chapter 10.77 RCW for mental health treatment, or at the time that
22 charges are dismissed based on incompetency to stand trial under RCW
23 10.77.088 and the court makes a finding indicating that the person
24 has a history of one or more violent acts, the convicting or
25 committing court shall notify the person, orally and in writing, that
26 the person must immediately surrender any concealed pistol license
27 and that the person may not possess a firearm unless his or her right
28 to do so is restored by a court of record. For purposes of this
29 section a convicting court includes a court in which a person has
30 been found not guilty by reason of insanity.

31 (b) The (~~convicting or committing~~) court which convicts or
32 commits the person or finds the person incompetent to stand trial
33 shall forward within three judicial days after conviction or entry of
34 the commitment order a copy of the person's driver's license or
35 identicard, or comparable information, along with the date of
36 conviction or commitment, to the department of licensing. When a
37 person is committed by court order under RCW 71.05.240, 71.05.320,
38 71.34.740, 71.34.750, or chapter 10.77 RCW, for mental health
39 treatment, the committing court also shall forward, within three

1 judicial days after entry of the commitment order, a copy of the
2 person's driver's license, or comparable information, along with the
3 date of commitment, to the national instant criminal background check
4 system index, denied persons file, created by the federal Brady
5 handgun violence prevention act (P.L. 103-159). The petitioning party
6 shall provide the court with the information required. If more than
7 one commitment order is entered under one cause number, only one
8 notification to the department of licensing and the national instant
9 criminal background check system is required.

10 (2) Upon receipt of the information provided for by subsection
11 (1) of this section, the department of licensing shall determine if
12 the convicted or committed person has a concealed pistol license. If
13 the person does have a concealed pistol license, the department of
14 licensing shall immediately notify the license-issuing authority
15 which, upon receipt of such notification, shall immediately revoke
16 the license.

17 (3)(a) A person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm, by
18 reason of having been involuntarily committed for mental health
19 treatment under RCW 71.05.240, 71.05.320, 71.34.740, 71.34.750,
20 chapter 10.77 RCW, or equivalent statutes of another jurisdiction, or
21 whose charges are dismissed based on incompetency to stand trial
22 under RCW 10.77.088 and the court makes a finding indicating that the
23 person has a history of one or more violent acts, may, upon
24 discharge, petition the superior court to have his or her right to
25 possess a firearm restored.

26 (b) The petition must be brought in the superior court that
27 ordered the involuntary commitment or dismissed the charges based on
28 incompetency to stand trial, or the superior court of the county in
29 which the petitioner resides.

30 (c) Except as provided in (d) of this subsection, the court shall
31 restore the petitioner's right to possess a firearm if the petitioner
32 proves by a preponderance of the evidence that:

33 (i) The petitioner is no longer required to participate in court-
34 ordered inpatient or outpatient treatment;

35 (ii) The petitioner has successfully managed the condition
36 related to the commitment;

37 (iii) The petitioner no longer presents a substantial danger to
38 himself or herself, or the public; and

39 (iv) The symptoms related to the commitment are not reasonably
40 likely to recur.

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

8 (e) When a person's right to possess a firearm has been restored
9 under this subsection, the court shall forward, within three judicial
10 days after entry of the restoration order, notification that the
11 person's right to possess a firearm has been restored to the
12 department of licensing, the department of social and health
13 services, and the national instant criminal background check system
14 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
17 firearm unless the person meets the requirements for the restoration
18 of the right to possess a firearm under RCW 9.41.040(4).

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