
HOUSE BILL 1692

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representative Wylie

1 AN ACT Relating to the imitation firearm manufacturing
2 requirement act; adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW; and providing
3 an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Between 1985 and 1989, there were four hundred ninety
7 reported cases within the United States where a police officer either
8 issued a warning of intent to use deadly force or used deadly force
9 based on the belief that an imitation firearm was a real weapon.

10 (b) The state of California has enacted Senate Bill No. 199 on
11 September 30, 2014, requiring that any BB device, imitation firearm,
12 replica of a firearm, or other device that is so substantially
13 similar in overall appearance to an existing firearm, must have its
14 exterior colored in bright colors, either singly or as the
15 predominant color in combination with other colors in any pattern or
16 where the entire device is constructed of transparent materials that
17 permits unmistakable observation of the device's complete contents to
18 indicate that it is not a firearm.

19 (c) In 2010, the total medical costs in Washington state for
20 firearm-related hospitalizations and deaths was seven million
21 dollars. This means that the average medical cost for each of the

1 approximately six hundred seventy-five people who had firearm-related
2 injuries and deaths in the same year was over ten thousand three
3 hundred seventy dollars.

4 (d) The approximate cost for a gallon of paint in the United
5 States, which would be used on imitation firearms, is fifty dollars.
6 However, the price of the paint required for the plugs used on
7 current imitation firearm muzzles is one hundred ninety-five dollars
8 a gallon.

9 (e) In 1989, a federally funded experiment was conducted to test
10 the effectiveness of the orange plugs on imitation firearms in
11 revealing that the imitation is not a firearm. The test involved
12 confronting police officers from the Montgomery county and Prince
13 William county, Maryland, and the Fairfax county, Virginia, police
14 departments with actors holding imitation firearms with the orange
15 plug. Ninety-six percent of the police officers failed to see the
16 orange tip and fired.

17 (2) The purposes of this chapter are:

18 (a) To reduce the number of injuries and deaths that result from
19 the mistaken appearance of an imitation firearm for a real firearm;
20 and

21 (b) To reduce the number of people requiring hospitalization,
22 resulting in fewer medical bills being paid for firearm-related
23 injuries and deaths. This will help the state save more of its
24 taxpayer dollars that would normally be used to pay for insurance-
25 covered medical bills.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
27 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
28 otherwise.

29 (1) "Destructive device" means an explosive, incendiary, or
30 poison gas.

31 (2) "Exterior of the device" means the outer frame of any object
32 classified as a look-alike or imitation of a firearm that is visible.

33 (3) "Firearm" includes but is not limited to any shotgun,
34 handgun, rifle, destructive device, or any other device that could
35 discharge a shot through the energy of an explosion.

36 (4) "Look-alike" means a device that closely resembles a firearm.

37 (5) "Markings" means standing out from the imitation firearm.

1 (6) "Medical cost" means the amount of money to be paid for any
2 services provided to an individual that resulted from any
3 firearm-related injuries or death.

4 (7) "Mixture" means two or more of the listed colors are visible,
5 but not added together, to make different shades of the color.

6 (8) "Transparent" means clear or see-through, so the contents
7 that make up the interior of the device are visible.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Individuals within the state are only
9 allowed to own or possess a look-alike or imitation firearm having
10 the appearance, shape, or configuration of a firearm if the entire
11 exterior of the look-alike or imitation firearm is a white, bright
12 red, bright orange, bright yellow, bright green, bright blue, bright
13 pink, or bright purple color or a mixture of these colors.

14 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to a look-alike
15 or imitation firearm that will be used only in the theatrical, movie,
16 or television industries that has been approved by the chief counsel
17 for technology in Washington, D.C.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the
19 imitation firearm manufacturing requirement act.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect July 1, 2016.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act
22 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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