

SHB 1240 - S AMD TO LAW COMM AMD (S-2726.1/23) 362
By Senator Fortunato

1 Beginning on page 1, line 3, strike all of section 1 and insert
2 the following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to instill a fear
4 of firearms in the populace based off the shape and color of the
5 firearm instead of any measurable difference in actual accuracy,
6 capacity, or versatility. The lethal effects of the misuse of
7 firearms are attributed to the style and shape of the firearms in
8 addition to accessories that can be attached to the firearm. These
9 attributes are utilized to describe the lethality of the actions of
10 people who utilize these firearms for nefarious purposes by
11 individuals and organizations that are strongly opposed to possession
12 of firearms. These individuals and organizations attribute lethal
13 characteristics to commonly used accessories and components in an
14 effort to instill and encourage the fear of inanimate objects and
15 detract focus from the cause of firearm violence, the mental status
16 of the firearms user.

17 Violence accomplished with firearms has been exploited to create
18 an atmosphere of fear surrounding the existence and legality of
19 firearm possession. A desire to protect society and prevent future
20 violence has led to a desire to ban firearms, their components, and
21 accessories. Because of the strikingly similar assault weapons ban
22 from 1994 to 2004, there is an opportunity to examine data that can
23 support or refute claims that banning certain firearm accessories
24 reduce the lethality of mass shootings. An examination of that
25 evidence finds that both the federal assault weapons ban and several
26 state assault weapons bans have had inconclusive effects on reducing
27 violence. Many of the studies that do indicate a positive link do not
28 take into consideration gang violence and manipulate the data to
29 prove a reduction in violence.

30 In the United States, there are approximately 393 million
31 civilian owned firearms, with roughly 20 million of those being AR-15
32 style firearms. In Washington state, 42 percent of Washington state
33 residents live in households with guns and there are less than

1 100,000 registered firearms in the state. The legislature intends to
2 exert control over the future purchase of a certain type of firearm
3 without addressing the safety of the most treasured members of our
4 society by providing school safety officers.

5 According to the 2018 mass shootings work group, funding school
6 resource officers, multistage threat assessment processes implemented
7 in education facilities, extreme risk protection orders, and
8 increased investment in mental health professionals were the most
9 important policy recommendations that would prevent future mass
10 shootings. The legislature finds that this legislation which limits
11 what law abiding citizens may possess will not protect anyone's
12 children. Focusing on who is using firearms to commit violent crimes,
13 why they are committing these crimes, and how to protect children
14 would accomplish much more."

EFFECT: Strikes and replaces the intent section.

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