

# Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of SSB 6406

Relating to firearm theft  
(2020 Legislative Session)

Evidence indicates that SSB 6406 would increase penalties for stealing a firearm from specified locations. Evidence indicates there is no association between length of sentences and crime rates, and it is not well researched whether increasing time incarcerated to the penalty levels set in this bill would result in changes in health outcomes.

## BILL INFORMATION

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**Sponsors:** Wilson, L., Holy, Becker, Padden, Wagoner, Muzzall, Short, Schoesler, Warnick, Ericksen, Braun, Brown, Honeyford, O'Ban, Rivers

### Summary of Bill:

- Creates theft of a firearm from a residence, store, shop, sales outlet, or vehicle as a specific class B felony offense.<sup>a</sup>
- Places theft of a firearm from a residence, store, shop, sales outlet, or vehicle at a seriousness level VII for sentencing with a standard range from 15 to 20 months in prison.

## HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

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This Health Impact Review found the following evidence for relevant provisions in HB 2480:

- **Informed assumption** that creating a specific criminal offense for the theft of a firearm from a residence, store, shop, sales outlet, or vehicle will result in increased penalties for those convicted of stealing a firearm from one of the specified locations. This informed assumption is based on current statute.
- **No association** between length of sentences and crime rates.
- **Informed assumption** that increasing penalties for stealing a firearm from a residence, store, shop, sales outlet, or vehicle will result in increased time incarcerated for individuals convicted of this offense. This informed assumption is based on bill provisions, current statutes, and information shared by key informants.
- **Not well researched** whether increasing time incarcerated (e.g., 3 to 14 additional months) would result in changes in health outcomes.

## FULL REVIEW

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For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review at

<https://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2020-14-SSB6406..pdf>

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<sup>a</sup> Under current Washington State law (RCW 9A.56.300) theft of any firearm is a class B felony offense and is placed at a seriousness level VI for sentencing.

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