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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6491**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes changes in the laws governing electronic defense weapons. Specifically, it does the following:

1. allows individuals over age 21 who possess certain firearm credentials to carry an electronic defense weapon;
2. expands what is considered an “electronic defense weapon” to include those that are incapable of inflicting death or serious physical injury; and
3. makes it a class D felony (punishable by up to five years imprisonment, up to a \$5,000 fine, or both) to sell or transfer these weapons to anyone who is under age 21 or does not possess a valid firearm credential.

Current law generally prohibits individuals from carrying electronic defense weapons in motor vehicles or on their persons (because they are classified as dangerous weapons). The bill exempts from this prohibition individuals who are at least age 21 and have an eligibility certificate or permit to carry or sell handguns or long guns or ammunition certificate (i.e., valid firearm credentials).

Under current law, “electronic defense weapon” means a weapon that, by electronic impulse or current, can temporarily immobilize a person but is incapable of inflicting death or serious physical injury (including a stun gun or other conductive energy device). The bill expands the definition by eliminating the requirement that the weapon be incapable of inflicting death or serious physical injury.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 38 Nay 0 (04/06/2021)