

Committee Substitute (CS) for Senate Bill 174 (SB174) - Finance Committee (FIN) - Version I (VI)

UA Firearms Analysis of CS for SB174 FIN - by UA General Counsel 4/05/16

April 4, 2016 Senate Finance passed a committee substitute for SB174 (Version I). The CS strips, or significantly alters from the prior version CS EDC version N (Committee Substitute, Education Committee, Version N), situations in which the Board of Regents may regulate firearms and knives. The Senate Finance CS:

- **Requires the Board of Regents to allow concealed handguns in dorms and shared housing.** Regulation of concealed handguns/knives in dorms and shared housing (section (b)(2)) is limited by section (d). Nonresidents who carry concealed would be required to carry their handgun at all times. Residents who carry concealed would be required to store a handgun in a resident-provided lockbox that may not be left unattended for more than a day. Apart from those restrictions, concealed weapons would be allowed in dorms and shared housing.
- **Requires the Board of Regents to allow concealed carry of rifles, storage of rifles in dorms, as well as open carry of knives.** Proposed Alaska Statutes - AS 14.40.173(a) would preclude the Board of Regents from regulating firearms and knives “except as specifically provided by statute.” The CS removes the language allowing regulation of possession or storage and only permits regulation of “*carrying of openly carried firearms*” (section (c)(1)). As a result, the Board of Regents could not regulate concealed carry, possession or storage of rifles, or open carry, possession or storage of knives.
- **Removes Board of Regents ability to regulate firearms or knives with troubled students or employees.** The Senate Education Committee CS (Version N) would have permitted regulation of concealed firearms and knives when the behavior of students or employees demonstrated a risk of harm to self or others. The Senate Finance CS strips this provision.
- **Limits Board of Regents ability to regulate firearms or knives in high stress/high conflict areas.** The CS would require creation of “restricted access areas” to restrict possession of firearms or knives in areas providing services to victims and investigating sexual assault, harassment or domestic violence, and during adjudication of staff and student disciplinary issues and disputes. Restricted access areas are defined as “areas beyond a secure point where visitors are screened and does not include common areas of ingress and egress open to the public.” (Senate Finance also zeroed out the fiscal note associated with review and creation of restricted access areas.)
- **Summary:** Of the six amendments sought by the Board of Regents, the Senate Finance CS addresses two, though it requires creation of restricted access areas to address those two. The CS:
 - Does not permit removal of weapons from troubled students or employees;
 - Requires that weapons be allowed in dorms and shared housing;
 - Does not address areas in which dedicated K-12 programs are provided;
 - Does not require a permit to carry concealed handguns on campus;
 - Requires that UA allow open carry of knives and concealed carry of rifles