



Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

Senate District A

SB 63

Sponsor Statement

“An Act Relating to Firearms and Other Weapons Restrictions.”

Senate Bill 63 would clarify the extent of authority granted during an emergency declaration regarding the Second Amendment. The bill seeks to prevent unnecessary infringements on the right to keep and bear arms. SB 63 establishes that notwithstanding a declaration of a disaster emergency, neither the state or a municipal agency may forbid the possession, use or transfer of a firearm, firearm accessory, ammunition, or other weapon for personal use. In addition, SB 63 also establishes that the closure and limitation of commerce under the police powers of the governor must be equally applied to all forms of commerce and prevents undue restrictions of businesses associated with firearms and public shooting range facilities.

Governors of the United States may declare a state of emergency in the event of a disaster. These declarations generally provide expansive police powers to regulate states during emergency situations to protect public health and safety. While these police powers are usually granted by a state’s constitution, state statutes clarify and define the extent of the emergency authority granted during an emergency declaration. Thus, state legislatures can create reasonable regulations to define and establish the restrictions on constitutional rights that may or may not be justified in times of emergency.

It is the duty of the state legislature to clarify the extent of the emergency authority granting restrictions to constitutional rights during an emergency declaration. SB 63 provides clarification that neither the state or municipal agencies may unnecessarily infringe upon Alaskan citizens right to keep and bear arms.