



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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December 1, 2025

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Subject: RCW 36.28A.405, Denied Firearms Transaction Information—Annual Report

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Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

Chief Clerk Dean and Secretary Bannister:

Pursuant to Chapter 261, Laws of 2017, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is submitting its annual report on the Denied Firearms Transaction Grant Program. This report is submitted in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

Washington State Denied Firearms Transaction Program—Annual Report (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)

In 2017, the Washington State Legislature passed legislation¹ that established a variety of requirements for Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs), the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). [RCW 36.28A.405](#) requires WASPC to prepare an annual report on the number of denied firearms sales or transfers reported pursuant to [Chapter 261, Laws of 2017](#). The report shall indicate the number of cases in which a person was denied a firearms sale or transfer, the number of cases where the denied sale or transfer was investigated for potential criminal prosecution, and the number of cases where an arrest was made, the case was referred for prosecution, and a conviction was obtained.

In 2020, the Washington State Legislature passed legislation² that established an update in requirements for FFLs, WSP, and WASPC. WASPC remains responsible for preparing an annual report on the number of denied firearms sales or transfers reported pursuant to [Chapter 28, Laws of 2020](#). The report shall indicate the number of cases in which a person was denied a firearms sale or transfer, the number of cases where the denied sale or transfer was investigated for potential criminal prosecution, and the number of cases where an arrest was made, the case was referred for prosecution and a conviction was obtained.

For State Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025), WASPC received 3,690 reports of denied transactions from WSP. WASPC received 1,087 subsequent approvals from WSP. Local law enforcement agencies have direct access to the denied firearms transaction system and can self-initiate investigations. A weekly email is also distributed informing local law enforcement agencies of the denied transactions that occurred within their jurisdiction in the prior week.

With the adoption of [RCW 9.41.1135](#), WSP developed the Secure Automated Firearm E-Check (SAFE) System. FFLs must submit all background checks, regardless of firearm type, through SAFE and pay the \$18.00 assessed fee. All denial notifications generated by SAFE are sent directly to local law enforcement through the WSP Watch (CRD) Portal. Denial notifications include subject information, FFL information as well as the reason for the denial. Due to this, WASPC has discontinued the practice of providing direct referrals to local law enforcement agencies, so as to not create duplicate alerts.

The following outlines WASPC's progress on specific statutory responsibilities and associated changes:

- I. Under [RCW 36.28A.400\(1\)](#), the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs must create and maintain an electronic portal for a dealer, as defined in [RCW 9.41.010](#), to report the information as required pursuant to section 1 of this act, pertaining to persons who have applied for the purchase or transfer of a firearm and were denied as the result of a background check or completed and submitted firearm purchase or transfer application that indicates the applicant is ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law.

¹ [1501-S.SL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

² [2467-S2.PL.pdf\(wa.gov\)](#)

- On July 25, 2017, WASPC launched www.wafirearmsreport.org. The site contained an electronic portal for FFLs to report denied purchase or transfer applications. FFLs also reported subsequent approvals via the portal as required by Chapter 9.41 RCW. The portal was password protected.
 - With the adoption of RCW 9.41.1135, the requirement for FFLs to report denied firearms transactions per 9.41.114 has been amended. FFLs no longer report denied transactions to WASPC (as of February 1, 2024). All background checks for firearms sales or transfers, regardless of firearm type, are submitted to SAFE and processed by the background check unit within WSP. Each day, WSP provides WASPC with a daily file containing all denied firearms transactions from the previous day. The denied firearms transaction data is utilized in accordance with Chapter 9.41 RCW and Chapter 28, Laws of 2020. WSP also provides WASPC with a daily file containing all subsequent approvals (overturns) that occurred in the previous day. Since the implementation of SAFE, www.wafirearmsreport.org has been deactivated.
- II. *Under RCW 36.28A.400(2), upon receipt of the information from WASPC pursuant to section 2 of this act, the Washington State Patrol must incorporate the information into its electronic database accessible to law enforcement agencies and officers, including federally recognized Indian Tribes that have a connection to the WSP electronic database.*
- WASPC began reporting denied purchase or transfer application information to WSP on August 8, 2017. WASPC also reported subsequent approvals as required.
 - With the adoption of ESSHB 2467, the requirement for the WSP to incorporate the information per [RCW 43.43.823](http://www.wa.gov/legislation/rcw/43.43.823) has been amended. All background checks for firearms sales or transfers are processed through SAFE and the background check unit at WSP. Subsequently, WSP now provides all denied firearm transaction and subsequent approval (overturned denial) information to WASPC via Secured File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) daily.
- III. *Under RCW 36.28A.410, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs shall create and operate a statewide automated protected persons notification system to automatically notify a registered person via the registered person's choice of telephone or email when a respondent subject to a court order specified in (b) of this subsection has attempted to purchase or acquire a firearm and been denied based on a background check or completed and submitted firearm purchase or transfer application that indicates the respondent is ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law.*
- The Washington State Protective Order Notification (VPO) system is available at www.VINELink.com. The VPO system provides registered individuals notification on service of a protection order that has been issued by a Washington State Court, expiration warnings, and automated notifications if the respondent in an order was denied the purchase/transfer of a firearm. Information in the VPO system is obtained from an interface with the WSP Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC) system.
 - During a planned migration of the VPO system to the broader VINE platform, WASPC identified data inconsistencies. In February 2024, WASPC disabled the VPO system to address the data inconsistencies. Given the public safety implications, the system remains offline. WASPC continues to work with stakeholders to identify necessary legislative changes and funding to address the inconsistencies.

IV. *Under RCW 36.28A.420, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs shall establish a grant program for local law enforcement agencies to conduct criminal investigations regarding persons who illegally attempted to purchase or transfer a firearm within their jurisdiction.*

- For Fiscal Year 2025, WASPC awarded \$78,500.00 to local law enforcement agencies to support criminal investigations regarding persons who illegally attempted to purchase or transfer firearms within their jurisdiction.
- To receive grant funds, agencies must report if an arrest was made and the case status. The following information is specific to only the 254 denied transactions where grant funds were requested from July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025. WASPC is aware of agencies that have investigated denied transactions without a request for grant funds. Although this occurs, WASPC does not have specific information available to report.

As reported by local law enforcement:

- Arrests – 11
- Case Status:
 - Referred to Prosecution – 39
 - Not Referred/Closed Exceptional – 123
 - Unresolved Case Status – 3
 - Not Referred – Prosecution will Decline – 89
 - Unknown – 0

Per data available through court systems:

- Charges filed as a result of SHB 1501 – 7
- Convictions:
 - Yes – 0
 - Deferral – 3
 - Pending – 2
 - Dismissed – 2

- The following chart represents funds allocated to support the grant program and grant funds requested by local law enforcement agencies to support investigation of denied firearms transactions over the duration of the program.

