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## DIGEST

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HB 892 Original

2018 Regular Session

Wright

**Abstract:** Repeals the prohibition on the manufacturing, ownership, possession, and custody of certain knives and prohibits the intentional concealment of such knives.

Present law prohibits the manufacture, ownership, possession, custody, or use of any switchblade knife, spring knife, or other knife or similar instrument having a blade which may be automatically unfolded or extended from a handle by the manipulation of a button, switch, latch, or similar contrivance located on the handle.

Present law provides that this prohibition shall not apply to the following:

- (1) Any knife that may be opened with one hand by manual pressure applied to the blade or any projection of the blade.
- (2) Any knife that may be opened by means of inertia produced by the hand, wrist, or other movement, provided the knife has either a detent or other structure that provides resistance that shall be overcome in opening or initiating the opening movement of the blade or a bias or spring load toward the closed position.

Present law further provides for the following exceptions to this offense:

- (1) The ownership of rescue knives by commissioned full-time law enforcement officers.
- (2) The carrying of rescue knives by commissioned full-time law enforcement officers who are in the actual discharge of their official duties.
- (3) The sale of rescue knives to commissioned full-time law enforcement officers.
- (4) The ownership or possession of rescue knives by merchants who own or possess the knives solely as inventory to be offered for sale to commissioned full-time law enforcement officers.

Proposed law removes from present law the prohibition on the manufacture, ownership, possession, custody, or use of any switchblade knife, spring knife, or other knife or similar instrument having a blade which may be automatically unfolded or extended from a handle by the manipulation of a button, switch, latch, or similar contrivance located on the handle.

Proposed law prohibits the intentional concealment of such knives on one's person.

Proposed law retains the present law exception to this offense for any knife that may be opened with one hand by manual pressure applied to the blade or any projection of the blade and certain knives that may be opened by means of inertia produced by the hand, wrist, or other movement.

Proposed law repeals the present law exception for rescue knives sold to or owned, carried, or possessed by law enforcement and the exception for merchants who own or possess the knives as inventory to be offered for sale to law enforcement officers.

(Amends R.S. 14:95(A)(4)(a); Repeals R.S. 14:95(J))