
DIGEST

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HB 200 Original

2018 Regular Session

Wright

Abstract: Repeals the prohibition on the manufacture, ownership, possession, custody, or use of certain knives and similar instruments, and repeals exceptions to this prohibition.

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.

Present law defines "rescue knife" as a folding knife, which can be readily and easily opened with one hand and which has at least one blade which is designed to be used to free individuals who are trapped by automobile seat belts, or at least one blade which is designed for a similar purpose. Further provides that no blade of a rescue knife shall exceed five inches in length.

Proposed law repeals these provisions of present law.

(Repeals R.S. 14:95(A)(4) and (J))