

2021 -- H 5884

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LC001630  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Casey, Fellela, Casimiro, Knight, Baginski, Vella-Wilkinson, and Corvese

Date Introduced: February 24, 2021

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-47-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons"  
2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-47-17. Qualifications required of law enforcement officers appointed after June**  
4 **17, 1959.**

5 Except as provided in § 11-47-15.3, all law enforcement officers of this state and its  
6 political subdivisions whose permanent appointment shall take place after June 17, 1959, will be  
7 required to qualify with the pistol or revolver with which they are armed prior to their permanent  
8 appointment, that qualification to be the same as that required in § 11-47-15. Town constables or  
9 police constables, special officers, and all law enforcement officers, who by law are authorized to  
10 carry side arms and whose appointments are made on a recurring basis, will be required to qualify  
11 not later than one year following the date of enactment of this section and their commissions or  
12 warrants will be plainly marked or stamped "QUALIFIED WITH PISTOL OR REVOLVER" and  
13 will be signed and dated by the certifying authority attesting to that fact. The failure of any law  
14 enforcement officer to qualify under the provisions of this section revokes his or her privilege of  
15 carrying a pistol or revolver, whether concealed or not, on or about his or her person. All law  
16 enforcement officers of this state and its political subdivisions will repeat this qualification ~~at~~  
17 ~~periods of not more than one year~~ two (2) times per year at intervals of at least four (4) months,  
18 except for correctional officers who must repeat this qualification ~~every two (2) years~~ one time per  
19 year. Provided further, effective January 1, 2022, the qualification requirements pursuant to this

1 [section shall include a nighttime low light/no light qualification component which shall simulate](#)  
2 [dusk to dawn lighting conditions which conditions may be artificially produced indoors.](#)

3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS

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1           This act would mandate that police officers qualify in the use of firearms two (2) times per  
2 year instead of one time annually.

3           This act would take effect on July 1, 2021.

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