

2022 -- S 2116

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS

Introduced By: Senators Archambault, and Burke

Date Introduced: January 25, 2022

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 11-47-35 and 11-47-35.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47
2 entitled "Weapons" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-47-35. Sale of concealable weapons -- Safety courses and tests -- Issuance of**
4 **permits to certain government officers.**

5 (a)(1) No person shall deliver a pistol or revolver to a purchaser until seven (7) days shall
6 have elapsed from twelve o'clock (12:00) noon of the day following the day of application for the
7 purchase, and when delivered, the pistol or revolver shall be unloaded and securely wrapped, with
8 the bill of sale to be enclosed within the wrapper with the pistol or revolver. Any citizen of the
9 United States and/or lawful resident of this state who is twenty-one (21) years of age or older, and
10 any nonresident member of the armed forces of the United States who is stationed in this state and
11 who is twenty-one (21) years of age or older, may, upon application, purchase or acquire a pistol
12 or revolver. At the time of applying for the purchase of a concealable firearm, the purchaser shall:
13 (i) Complete and sign in triplicate and deliver to the person selling the pistol or revolver the
14 application form described in this section, and in no case shall it contain the serial number of the
15 pistol or revolver; and (ii) Present to the person selling the pistol or revolver a pistol/revolver safety
16 certificate issued by the department of environmental management. The certificate shall be retained
17 in the possession of the buyer. The pistol/revolver safety certificate shall certify that the purchaser
18 has completed a basic pistol/revolver safety course as shall be administered by the department of
19 environmental management.

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(Face of application form)

Application to Purchase Pistol or Revolver

Date Hour A.M. P.M.

Name

Address

(Street and number) (City or town) (State)

Date of Birth Place of Birth

Height Weight Color hair

Color eyes

Scars

Tattoos

Other identifying marks

Are you a citizen of the United States

Are you a citizen of Rhode Island

How long

Where stationed

(Armed Forces only)

Number of pistols and/or revolvers to be purchased

Have you ever been convicted of a crime of violence

(See § 11-47-2)

Have you ever been adjudicated or under confinement as addicted to a controlled substance

.....

Have you ever been adjudicated or under confinement for alcoholism

.....

Have you ever been confined or treated for mental illness

From whom is pistol or revolver being purchased

Seller's address

Seller's signature

Applicant's signature

(See § 11-47-23 for penalty for false information on this application)

(Reverse side of application form)

AFFIDAVIT: I certify that I have read and am familiar with the provisions of §§ 11-47-1 -- 11-47-55, inclusive, of the general laws of the State of Rhode Island, and that I am aware of the penalties for violation of the provisions of the cited sections. I further certify that I have completed

1 the required basic pistol/revolver safety course.

2 Signed

3 (over)

4 County of

5 State of Rhode Island

6 Subscribed and sworn before me this day of A.D. 20..

7 Notary Public

8

9 (2) The person selling the pistol or revolver shall on the date of application sign and forward
10 by registered mail, by delivery in person, or by electronic mail if approved by the applicable police
11 department, the original and duplicate copies of the application to the chief of police in the city or
12 town in which the purchaser has his or her residence or to the superintendent of the Rhode Island
13 state police in the instance where the purchaser either resides in the town of Exeter or resides out
14 of state. The superintendent of the Rhode Island state police or the chief of police in the city or
15 town in which the purchaser has his or her residence shall mark or stamp the original copy of the
16 application form with the date and the time of receipt and return it by the most expeditious means
17 to the person who is selling the pistol or revolver. The triplicate copy duly signed by the person
18 who is selling the pistol or revolver shall within seven (7) days be sent by him or her by registered
19 mail, by delivery in person, or by electronic mail to the attorney general. The person who is selling
20 the pistol or revolver shall retain the original copy duly receipted by the police authority to whom
21 sent or delivered for a period of six (6) years with other records of the sale. It shall be the duty of
22 the police authority to whom the duplicate copy of the application form is sent or delivered to make
23 a background check of the applicant to ascertain whether he or she falls under the provisions of §
24 11-47-5, § 11-47-6, § 11-47-7, or § 11-47-23. [The police authority making such a background](#)
25 [check of the applicant may invoice the seller of the pistol or revolver a twenty-five dollar \(\\$25.00\)](#)
26 [fee per non-disqualifying background check.](#) If, after the lapse of seven (7) days from twelve
27 o'clock (12:00) noon of the day following application, no disqualifying information has been
28 received from the investigating police authority by the person who is selling the pistol or revolver,
29 he or she will deliver the firearm applied for to the purchaser. Upon the finding of no disqualifying
30 information under the provisions of the above cited sections of this chapter, and in no case later
31 than thirty (30) days after the date of application, the duplicate and triplicate copies of the
32 application will be destroyed. Retention of the duplicate and triplicate copies in violation of this
33 section or any unauthorized use of the information contained in the copies by a person or agency
34 shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The provisions of this

1 section shall not apply to bona fide sales at wholesale to duly licensed retail dealers, nor to
2 purchases by retail dealers duly licensed under the provisions of § 11-47-39.

3 (b)(1) The department of environmental management shall establish the basic
4 pistol/revolver safety course required by this section. The safety course shall consist of not less
5 than two (2) hours of instruction in the safe use and handling of pistols and revolvers and the course
6 shall be available to buyers continually throughout the year at convenient times and places but at
7 least monthly at locations throughout the state, or more frequently as required. Proficiency in the
8 use of pistols or revolvers shall not be prerequisite to the issuance of the safety certificate. No
9 person shall be required to complete the course more than once; provided, that any person
10 completing the course who is unable to produce the safety certificate issued by the department of
11 environmental management shall be required to take the course again unless the person provides
12 evidence to the department that he or she has successfully completed the course.

13 (2) The administration of the basic pistol/revolver safety course required by this section
14 shall not exceed the cost of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) in any fiscal year.

15 (c) Proof of passage of the department of environmental management's basic hunter safety
16 course will be equivalent to the pistol/revolver safety certificate mandated by this section.

17 (d) Any person who has reason to believe that he or she does not need the required handgun
18 safety course may apply by any written means to the department of environmental management to
19 take an objective test on the subject matter of the handgun safety course. The test shall be prepared,
20 as well as an instruction manual upon which the test shall be based, by the department. The manual
21 shall be made available by any means to the applicant who may, within the time limits for
22 application, take the objective test at the department or at any location where the handgun safety
23 course is being given. Any person receiving a passing grade on the test shall be issued a
24 pistol/revolver safety certificate by the department.

25 (e) [Deleted by P.L. 2005, ch. 20, § 11 and P.L. 2005, ch. 27, § 11.]

26 (f) The following persons shall be issued basic pistol/revolver permits by the department
27 of environmental management: sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, the superintendent and members of the
28 state police, prison or jail wardens or their deputies, members of the city or town police force,
29 members of the park police, conservation officers, members of the airport police and officers of the
30 United States government authorized by law to carry a concealed firearm and, at the discretion of
31 the department of environmental management, any person who can satisfactorily establish that he
32 or she formerly held one of these offices or were so authorized.

33 (g) Any person who is serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard
34 on active duty shall not be required to obtain a basic pistol/revolver safety certificate or basic

1 pistol/revolver permit under this section so long as he or she remains on active duty.

2 (h) Any person who is serving in the active reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air
3 Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or any person in an active duty paid status in the Rhode
4 Island National Guard, shall not be required to obtain a basic pistol/revolver safety certificate under
5 this section so long as he or she remains in active status.

6 **11-47-35.2. Sale of rifles/shotguns.**

7 (a) No person shall deliver a rifle or shotgun to a purchaser until seven (7) days shall have
8 elapsed from twelve o'clock (12:00) noon of the day following the day of application for the
9 purchase, and when delivered, the rifle or shotgun shall be unloaded and securely wrapped, with
10 the bill of sale for it to be enclosed within the wrapper with the rifle or shotgun. Any citizen of the
11 United States and/or lawful resident of this state who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, and any
12 nonresident member of the armed forces of the United States who is stationed in this state and who
13 is eighteen (18) years of age or older, may, upon application, purchase or acquire a rifle or shotgun.
14 At the time of applying for the purchase of a shotgun or rifle the purchaser shall complete and sign
15 in triplicate and deliver to the seller the application form described in this section, and in no case
16 shall it contain the serial number of the rifle or shotgun.

17 (Face of application form)

18 Application to Purchase Shotgun or Rifle

19 Date Hour A.M. P.M.
20 Name
21 Address
22 (Street and number) (City or town) (State)
23 Date of Birth Place of Birth
24 Height Weight Color hair
25 Color eyes
26 Scars
27 Tattoos
28 Other identifying marks
29 Are you a citizen of the United States
30 Are you a citizen of Rhode Island
31 How long
32 Where stationed
33 (Armed Forces only)
34 Number of rifles and/or shotguns to be purchased

1 Have you ever been convicted of a crime of violence

2 (See § 11-47-2 General Laws of Rhode Island)

3 Have you ever been adjudicated or under confinement as addicted to a controlled substance

4

5 Have you ever been adjudicated or under confinement for alcoholism

6

7 Have you ever been confined or treated for mental illness

8 From whom is shotgun or rifle being purchased

9 Seller's address

10 Seller's signature

11 Applicant's signature

12 (See § 11-47-23 for penalty for false information on this application)

13 (Reverse side of application form)

14 AFFIDAVIT: I certify that I have read and am familiar with the provisions of §§ 11-47-1

15 -- 11-47-59, inclusive, of the general laws of the State of Rhode Island, and that I am aware of the

16 penalties for violation of the provisions of the cited sections.

17 Signed

18 County of

19 State of Rhode Island

20 Subscribed and sworn before me this day of A.D. 20..

21 Notary Public

22

23 (b) The person who is selling the rifle or shotgun shall, on the date of application, sign and

24 forward by registered mail or by delivery in person, or by electronic mail if approved by the

25 applicable police department, the original and duplicate copies of the application to the chief of

26 police in the city or town in which the purchaser has his or her residence or to the superintendent

27 of the Rhode Island state police in the instance where the purchaser either resides in the town of

28 Exeter or resides out of state. The superintendent of the Rhode Island state police or the chief of

29 police in the city or town in which the purchaser has his or her residence shall mark or stamp the

30 original copy of the application form with the date and time of receipt and return it by the most

31 expeditious means to the seller. The triplicate copy duly signed by the seller shall within seven (7)

32 days be sent by him or her by registered mail, by delivery in person, or by electronic mail, to the

33 attorney general. The person who is selling the rifle or shotgun shall retain the original copy duly

34 receipted by the police authority to whom sent or delivered for a period of six (6) years with other

1 records of the sale. It shall be the duty of the police authority to whom the duplicate copy of the
2 application form is sent or delivered to make a background check of the applicant to ascertain
3 whether he or she falls under the provisions of § 11-47-5, § 11-47-6, § 11-47-7, or § 11-47-23. [The](#)
4 [police authority making such a background check may invoice the seller of the rifle or shotgun a](#)
5 [twenty-five dollar \(\\$25.00\) fee per non-disqualifying background check.](#) If, after the lapse of seven
6 (7) days from twelve o'clock (12:00) noon of the day following application, no disqualifying
7 information has been received from the investigating police authority by the person who is selling
8 the rifle or shotgun, he or she will deliver the firearm applied for to the purchaser. Upon the finding
9 of no disqualifying information under the provisions of the above cited sections of this chapter, and
10 in no case later than thirty (30) days after the date of application, the duplicate and triplicate copies
11 of the application will be destroyed. Retention of the duplicate and triplicate copies in violation of
12 this chapter or any unauthorized use of the information contained in them by a person or agency
13 shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The provisions of this
14 section shall not apply to bona fide sales at wholesale to duly licensed retail dealers, nor to
15 purchases by retail dealers duly licensed under the provisions of § 11-47-39.

16 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to full-time members of the state police,
17 full-time members of city or town police departments, persons licensed under §§ 11-47-9 and 11-
18 47-11, or to sales of air rifles or "BB guns" or to sales of antique firearms as defined in § 11-47-2.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS

1 This act would authorize the police authority making a background check of an applicant
2 seeking to buy a firearm, to invoice the seller of any pistol, revolver, shotgun or rifle, a twenty-five
3 dollar (\$25.00) fee per non-disqualifying background check.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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