2023 -- H 5695

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Hull, Baginski, Vella-Wilkinson, Finkelman, Place, Dawson, Azzinaro, Costantino, and Lima

Date Introduced: February 17, 2023

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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


Except as provided in § 11-47-15.3, all law enforcement officers of this state and its political subdivisions whose permanent appointment shall take place after June 17, 1959, will be required to qualify with the pistol or revolver with which they are armed prior to their permanent appointment, that qualification to be the same as that required in § 11-47-15. Town constables or police constables, special officers, and all law enforcement officers, who by law are authorized to carry side arms and whose appointments are made on a recurring basis, will be required to qualify not later than one year following the date of enactment of this section and their commissions or warrants will be plainly marked or stamped “QUALIFIED WITH PISTOL OR REVOLVER” and will be signed and dated by the certifying authority attesting to that fact. The failure of any law enforcement officer to qualify under the provisions of this section revokes his or her privilege of carrying a pistol or revolver, whether concealed or not, on or about his or her person. All law enforcement officers of this state and its political subdivisions will repeat this qualification at periods of not more than one year two (2) times per year at intervals of at least four (4) months, except for correctional officers who must repeat this qualification one time per year, Provided further, effective January 1, 2024, the qualification requirements pursuant to this section shall
include a nighttime low light/no light qualification component which shall simulate dusk to dawn lighting conditions which may be artificially produced indoors.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
AN ACT
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 year instead of one time annually and correction officers qualify annually under lowlight/no light conditions.

4 This act would take effect on July 1, 2023.