

2014 -- H 7923

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Cimini, Ajello, Finn, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: March 13, 2014

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Attorney General)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 11-47-5, 11-47-8, 11-47-9 and 11-47-30 of the General Laws in  
2 Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-47-5. Possession of arms by person convicted of crime of violence or who is a**  
4 **fugitive from justice. --** (a) No person who has been convicted in this state or elsewhere of a  
5 crime of violence, or who has been convicted of an offense punishable as a misdemeanor offense  
6 under § 12-29-2 or who is a fugitive from justice shall purchase, own, carry, transport, or have in  
7 his or her possession any firearm.

8 ~~(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, no person convicted~~  
9 ~~of an offense punishable as a felony offense under section 12-29-5 shall purchase, own, carry,~~  
10 ~~transport, or have in his or her possession any firearm, for a period of two (2) years following the~~  
11 ~~date of that conviction.~~

12 ~~(e)~~(b) No person who is in community confinement pursuant to the provisions of section  
13 42-56-20.2 or who is otherwise subject to electronic surveillance or monitoring devices as a  
14 condition of parole shall purchase, carry, transport, or have in his or her possession any firearm.  
15 This subsection shall not apply to any person who has not been convicted of (or pleaded guilty or  
16 nolo contendere to) a crime of violence in a court of competent jurisdiction.

17 ~~(d)~~(c) Every person violating the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be  
18 punished by imprisonment for not less than two (2) nor more than ten (10) years; and for  
19 penalties provided in this section he or she shall not be afforded the benefit of suspension or

1     deferment of sentence nor of probation.

2             **11-47-8. License or permit required for carrying pistol -- Possession of machine gun.**

3     -- (a) No person shall, without a license or permit issued as provided in sections 11-47-11, 11-47-  
4     12 and 11-47-18, carry a pistol or revolver in any vehicle or conveyance or on or about his or her  
5     person whether visible or concealed, except in his or her dwelling house or place of business or  
6     on land possessed by him or her or as provided in sections 11-47-9 and 11-47-10. The provisions  
7     of these sections shall not apply to any person who is the holder of a valid license or permit  
8     issued by the licensing authority of another state, or territory of the United States, or political  
9     subdivision of the state or territory, allowing him or her to carry a pistol or revolver in any  
10    vehicle or conveyance or on or about his or her person whether visible or concealed, provided the  
11    person is merely transporting the firearm through the state in a vehicle or other conveyance  
12    without any intent on the part of the person to detain him or herself or remain within the state of  
13    Rhode Island. No person shall manufacture, sell, purchase, or possess a machine gun except as  
14    otherwise provided in this chapter. Every person violating the provision of this section shall, upon  
15    conviction, be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than ten (10) years, or by  
16    a fine up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or both, and except for a first conviction under this  
17    section shall not be afforded the provisions of suspension or deferment of sentence, nor ~~a~~ of  
18    probation.

19           (b) No person shall have in his or her possession or under his or her control any sawed-  
20    off shotgun or sawed-off rifle as defined in section 11-47-2. Any person convicted of violating  
21    this subsection shall be punished by imprisonment for up to ten (10) years, or by a fine of up to  
22    five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or both.

23           (c) No person shall have in his or her possession or under his or her control any firearm  
24    while the person delivers, possesses with intent to deliver, or manufactures a controlled  
25    substance. Any person convicted of violating this subsection shall be punished by imprisonment  
26    for not less than two (2) years nor more than twenty (20) years, and the sentence shall be  
27    consecutive to any sentence the person may receive for the delivery, possession with intent to  
28    deliver, or the manufacture of the controlled substance. It shall not be a defense to a violation of  
29    this subsection that a person has a license or permit to carry or possess a firearm.

30           (d) No person shall carry a rifle or shotgun in any vehicle or conveyance or on or about  
31    his or her person whether visible or concealed, except in his or her dwelling house or place of  
32    business or on land possessed by him or her. Every person violating the provisions of this  
33    subsection, shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more  
34    than ten (10) years, or by a fine up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or both, except for a first

1 [conviction under this section, the person shall not be afforded the provisions of suspension or](#)  
2 [deferment of sentence, nor probation. This subsection shall not apply to those persons engaged in](#)  
3 [lawful hunting activity as provided in chapter 20-13, lawful target shooting within this state or](#)  
4 [lawfully engaged in any of the activities authorized by § 11-47-9.](#)

5 **11-47-9. Persons exempt from restrictions.** -- (a) The provisions of section 11-47-8  
6 shall not apply to sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, the superintendent and members of the state police,  
7 members of the Rhode Island airport police department, members of the Rhode Island state  
8 marshals, Rhode Island state fire marshal, chief deputy state fire marshals, deputy state fire  
9 marshals assigned to the bomb squad, and those assigned to the investigation unit, correctional  
10 officers, within the department of corrections, members of the city or town police force, capitol  
11 police investigators of the department of attorney general appointed pursuant to section 42-9-8.1,  
12 the witness protection coordinator for the witness protection review board as set forth in chapter  
13 30 of title 12 and subject to the minimum qualifications of section 42-9-8.1, and automobile theft  
14 investigators of the Rhode Island state police pursuant to section 31-50-1, railroad police while  
15 traveling to and from official assignments or while on assignments, conservation officers, or other  
16 duly appointed law enforcement officers, nor to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and  
17 Marine Corps of the United States, the National Guard, or organized reserves, when on duty, nor  
18 to members of organizations by law authorized to purchase or receive firearms from the United  
19 States or this state, provided these members are at or going to or from their places of assembly or  
20 target practice, nor to officers or employees of the United States authorized by law to carry a  
21 concealed firearm, nor to any civilian guard or criminal investigator carrying sidearms or a  
22 concealed firearm in the performance of his or her official duties under the authority of the  
23 commanding officer of the military establishment in the state of Rhode Island where he or she is  
24 employed by the United States, nor to any civilian guard carrying sidearms or a concealed firearm  
25 in the performance of his or her official duties under the authority of the adjutant general where  
26 he or she is employed guarding a national guard facility, provided, that the commanding officer  
27 of the military establishment shall have on file with the attorney general of this state a list of the  
28 names and addresses of all civilian guards and criminal investigators so authorized, nor to duly  
29 authorized military organizations when on duty, nor to members when at or going to or from their  
30 customary places of assembly, nor to any individual employed in the capacity of warden,  
31 associate warden, major, captain, lieutenant, sergeant, correctional officer or investigator at any  
32 project owned or operated by a municipal detention facility corporation, including the Donald W.  
33 Wyatt Detention Facility, nor to the regular and/or ordinary transportation of ~~pistols~~ [a pistol](#), ~~or~~  
34 ~~revolvers~~ [revolver, rifle, or a shotgun](#) as merchandise, nor to any person while transporting a

1 pistol, ~~or revolvers~~ revolver, rifle or shotgun, unloaded from the place of purchase to their  
2 residence, or place of business, from their residence to their place of business or from their place  
3 of business to their residence, or to a Federal Firearms licensee for the purpose of sale, to or from  
4 a bona fide gunsmith, or firearms repair facility, to any police station or other location designated  
5 as a site of a bona fide "gun buy-back" program but only if said pistol, revolver, rifle, or shotgun  
6 is unloaded and any ammunition for said pistol, ~~or revolver,~~ rifle, or shotgun is not readily or  
7 directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such vehicle while transporting same and  
8 further provided that in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the passenger  
9 compartment the firearm or the ammunition shall be stored in a locked container.

10 (b) Persons exempted by the provisions of this section from the provisions of section 11-  
11 47-8 shall have the right to carry concealed firearms everywhere within this state; provided, that  
12 this shall not be construed as giving the right to carry concealed firearms to a person transporting  
13 firearms as merchandise or as household or business goods.

14 **11-47-30. Sale, transfer or delivery of firearms to minors. --** (a) It shall be unlawful  
15 within this state for any person to sell, transfer, give, convey, or cause to be sold, transferred,  
16 given or conveyed any firearm to any person under eighteen (18) years of age, when the person  
17 knows or has reason to know that the recipient is under eighteen (18) years of age, except for the  
18 limited purposes set forth in sections 11-47-33 and 11-47-34 and with the prior approval or  
19 consent of the parent or legal guardian of the minor.

20 (b) Every person violating ~~this section~~ subsection (a) shall be punished, upon conviction,  
21 by imprisonment for not less than ten (10) years and not more than twenty (20) years. The  
22 prohibitions of this section shall not apply to any federally and state licensed retail dealer who  
23 makes reasonable efforts to verify a purchaser's age and shall not apply to the sale of an air rifle,  
24 air pistol, "blank gun" or "BB gun."

25 (c) If the firearm unlawfully sold, transferred, given, conveyed, or caused to be sold,  
26 transferred, given or conveyed to any person under eighteen (18) years of age is used in a crime  
27 of violence, the person found in violation of subsection (a), upon conviction, shall be punished by  
28 imprisonment of not less than fifteen (15) years. The sentence shall be consecutive to any  
29 sentence the person may receive for the underlying offense in subsection (a).

30 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

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1           This act would prohibit persons convicted of certain misdemeanor domestic offenses  
2 from purchasing, owning, carrying, transporting, or having in his or her possession any firearm,  
3 and would prohibit persons from carrying a rifle or shotgun in any vehicle or conveyance, except  
4 upon his or her own property. This act would also provide additional penalties for transferring a  
5 firearm to a minor, if that firearm is used in a crime of violence.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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