

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

As Engrossed: H3/17/17 H3/22/17

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1817

5 By: Representative C. Douglas  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF POSSESSION OF A  
9 FIREARM WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR A  
10 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

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13 TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF POSSESSION OF A  
14 FIREARM WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF  
15 ALCOHOL OR A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 73, Subchapter 1, is amended  
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 5-73-113. Possession of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol  
24 or a controlled substance.

25 (a) A person commits the offense of possession of a firearm while  
26 under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance if the person  
27 knowingly possesses a firearm while he or she is under the influence of  
28 alcohol or a controlled substance to such a degree as to render the person  
29 incapable of safely operating the firearm.

30 (b) Possession of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or a  
31 controlled substance is a Class A misdemeanor.

32 (c) It is not an offense under this section if the person possesses  
33 the firearm while:

34 (1) In the person's own dwelling or place of business or on land  
35 owned, leased, or possessed by the person; or

36 (2) Committing an act of self-defense or in defense of another



1 person if a reasonable person in the person's position would fear serious  
2 physical injury or death.

3 (d)(1) If probable cause exists for a law enforcement officer to  
4 believe a person is in possession of a firearm while under the influence of  
5 alcohol or a controlled substance, the law enforcement officer shall request  
6 that the person submit to one (1) or more tests of the person's blood,  
7 breath, urine, or other bodily substance to determine the presence of alcohol  
8 or a controlled substance.

9 (2) The selection of the test or tests shall be made by the law  
10 enforcement officer.

11 (3) A test of a person's blood under this section to determine  
12 the alcohol concentration, controlled substance content, or other  
13 intoxicating substance content in his or her blood requires a warrant based  
14 on probable cause that the person was in possession of a firearm while under  
15 the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

16 (e)(1) If a law enforcement officer requests a person to submit to a  
17 test of blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substance under this section,  
18 the withdrawal of blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substance at the  
19 direction of the law enforcement officer may be performed only by:

20 (A) A person licensed to practice medicine or licensed as  
21 a physician's assistant, or a person acting under the direction of a person  
22 licensed to practice medicine or licensed as a physician's assistant;

23 (B) A registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse;

24 (C) A qualified medical technician; or

25 (D) A phlebotomist.

26 (2) A sample of the person's blood, breath, urine, or other  
27 bodily substance shall be drawn or taken in the same manner as under the  
28 Omnibus DWI or BWI Act, § 5-65-101 et seq.

29 (3)(A) A person's refusal to permit a sample of his or her  
30 breath, urine, or other bodily substance that is not blood to be taken under  
31 this subsection is admissible in evidence against the person at any trial on  
32 a charge arising out of the person's possession of a firearm while under the  
33 influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

34 (B) Failure of a person to provide an adequate sample of  
35 breath, urine, or other bodily substance that is not blood as directed under  
36 this subsection constitutes a refusal unless the person shows that the

1 failure was due to physical inability caused by a medical condition unrelated  
2 to any ingested alcohol or controlled substance.

3 (C) In a prosecution for possession of a firearm while  
4 under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, if the court finds  
5 that a person refused to submit to testing when requested under this section,  
6 upon petition to the court the prosecuting attorney may recover on behalf of  
7 the state, in addition to the criminal penalties provided in this section, a  
8 civil penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation.

9 (4)(A) In a prosecution for possession of a firearm while under  
10 the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, evidence of the  
11 concentration of alcohol or a controlled substance in the person's blood,  
12 breath, urine, or other bodily substance may be admitted and shall give rise  
13 to the following:

14 (i) If the alcohol concentration is less than eight  
15 hundredths (0.08), that fact may be considered with other evidence to  
16 determine if the person was under the influence of alcohol;

17 (ii) If the alcohol concentration is eight  
18 hundredths (0.08) or more, it is prima facie evidence that the person was  
19 under the influence of alcohol; and

20 (iii) If there is present in a bodily substance of  
21 the person a narcotic, hypnotic, somnifacient, stimulant, or other controlled  
22 substance which has the capacity to render the person incapacitated, that  
23 fact may be considered to determine if the person was under the influence of  
24 a controlled substance.

25 (B) Subdivision (e)(4)(A) of this section does not limit  
26 the introduction of any other evidence bearing upon the question of whether  
27 or not the person was under the influence of alcohol or a controlled  
28 substance.

29 (C) Release of any information under this section shall be  
30 in accordance with § 12-12-312.

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32 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-73-309, concerning requirements for a*  
33 *license to carry a concealed handgun, is amended to add an additional*  
34 *subdivision to read as follows:*

35 (15) Has not been convicted in the last three (3) years  
36 preceding the application of possession of a firearm while under the

1 influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, § 5-73-113.

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3 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-73-312(a)(1), concerning revocation of a  
4 concealed handgun license, is amended to read as follows:

5 (a)(1) A license to carry a concealed handgun issued under this  
6 subchapter shall be revoked if the licensee:

7 (A) ~~becomes~~ Becomes ineligible under the criteria set  
8 forth in § 5-73-308(a) or § 5-73-309+; or

9 (B)(i) Is convicted of possession of a firearm while under  
10 the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, § 5-73-113.

11 (ii)(a) A licensee who has his or her license  
12 revoked under this subdivision (a)(1)(B) shall have his or her enhanced  
13 endorsement to carry a concealed handgun, if applicable, revoked for three  
14 (3) years for a first offense and shall have his or her license to carry a  
15 concealed handgun permanently revoked for a second offense.

16 (b) A licensee who has his or her license to  
17 carry a concealed handgun permanently revoked under this subdivision  
18 (a)(1)(B)(ii) may petition a circuit court to restore his or her ability to  
19 become a licensee.

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22 /s/C. Douglas  
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