

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1018

5 By: Representative S. Meeks
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A MEMBER OF A MUNICIPAL FIRE
9 DEPARTMENT BOMB SQUAD TO LAWFULLY CARRY A WEAPON AND
10 MAKE ARRESTS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; TO ALLOW
11 MEMBERS OF A MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT BOMB SQUAD TO
12 CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN WITHOUT A LICENSE TO CARRY
13 A CONCEALED HANDGUN IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND FOR
14 OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

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18 TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF A MUNICIPAL FIRE
19 DEPARTMENT BOMB SQUAD TO MAKE ARRESTS AND
20 LAWFULLY CARRY A WEAPON IN CERTAIN
21 CIRCUMSTANCES.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-73-119(e)(2), concerning circumstances in
27 which possessing a handgun on school property is permissible, is amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (2) The person is a law enforcement officer, correctional
30 officer, member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized
31 to carry a concealed handgun under § 12-15-204, or member of the armed forces
32 acting in the course and scope of his or her official duties;
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-73-120(c)(2), concerning circumstances in
35 which carrying a weapon is permissible, is amended to read as follows:

36 (2) The person is a law enforcement officer, correctional



1 officer, member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized
2 to carry a concealed handgun under § 12-15-204, or member of the armed forces
3 acting in the course and scope of his or her official duties;

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5 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-73-122(a)(1)-(2), concerning carrying a
6 firearm in publicly owned buildings or facilities, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 (a)(1) Except as provided in § 5-73-322, § 5-73-306(5), § 16-21-147,
9 and this section, it is unlawful for a person other than a law enforcement
10 officer, either on-duty or off-duty, a security guard in the employ of the
11 state or an agency of the state or any city or county, a member of a
12 municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized to carry a concealed
13 handgun under § 12-15-204, or any state or federal military personnel, to
14 knowingly carry or possess a loaded firearm or other deadly weapon in any
15 publicly owned building or facility or on the State Capitol grounds.

16 (2) It is unlawful for any person other than a law enforcement
17 officer, either on-duty or off-duty, a security guard in the employ of the
18 state or an agency of the state or any city or county, a member of a
19 municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized to carry a concealed
20 handgun under § 12-15-204, or any state or federal military personnel, to
21 knowingly carry or possess a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, in the
22 State Capitol Building or the Arkansas Justice Building in Little Rock.

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24 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2, is
25 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 12-15-204. Bomb squad – Concealed carry of a handgun authorized.

27 (a) A member of a municipal fire department bomb squad may carry a
28 concealed handgun if he or she:

29 (1) Has successfully completed a course of study for law
30 enforcement officers approved by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement
31 Standards and Training;

32 (2) Is acting in his or her official capacity as a member of a
33 municipal fire department bomb squad;

34 (3) Is not subject to any disciplinary action that suspends his
35 or her authority as a member of the municipal fire department bomb squad;

36 (4) Is carrying a badge or appropriate written photographic

1 identification issued by the municipal fire department identifying him or her
 2 as a member of the municipal fire department bomb squad;

3 (5) Is not otherwise prohibited under federal law from receiving
 4 or possessing a firearm;

5 (6) Is not under the influence of alcohol or another
 6 intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance; and

7 (7) Has fingerprint impressions on file with the Division of
 8 Arkansas State Police automated fingerprint identification system.

9 (b) A member of a municipal fire department bomb squad carrying a
 10 concealed handgun under this section is not subject to the prohibitions and
 11 limitations of § 5-73-306.

12
 13 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 53, Subchapter 1, is
 14 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

15 14-53-113. Bomb squad member – Authority to make arrests.

16 A member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who has successfully
 17 completed a course of study for law enforcement officers approved by the
 18 Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training may make
 19 arrests for violations of the law related to explosives and incidents
 20 involving explosives.