

SENATE BILL NO. 304

INTRODUCED BY R. WEBB

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING MEMBERS OF THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE TO CARRY A LAWFULLY POSSESSED AND CONCEALED HANDGUN ON STATE PROPERTY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; AUTHORIZING THE HOUSE AND SENATE SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS AND DEPUTY SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS TO CARRY A LAWFULLY POSSESSED AND CONCEALED HANDGUN ON STATE PROPERTY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; AMENDING SECTIONS 45-8-317, 45-8-328, AND 45-8-351, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Legislator and sergeant-at-arms possession of handguns on state property.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), a senator or representative currently serving as a member of the Montana legislature may VOLUNTARILY carry a lawfully possessed and concealed handgun on any portion of state property open to the public.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a person currently serving as house or senate sergeant-at-arms or as a deputy house or senate sergeant-at-arms may VOLUNTARILY carry a lawfully possessed and concealed handgun on any portion of state property open to the public.

(3) This section does not apply to a state prison as defined in 53-30-101.

(4) WHILE CARRYING A CONCEALED HANDGUN PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, A PERSON SHALL ALSO HAVE IN THE PERSON'S POSSESSION A VALID PERMIT TO CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON.

**Section 2.** Section 45-8-317, MCA, is amended to read:

**"45-8-317. Exceptions.** (1) Section 45-8-316 does not apply to:

- (a) any peace officer of the state of Montana or of another state who has the power to make arrests;
- (b) any officer of the United States government authorized to carry a concealed weapon;
- (c) a person in actual service as a member of the national guard;
- (d) a person summoned to the aid of any of the persons named in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(c);
- (e) a civil officer or the officer's deputy engaged in the discharge of official business;

- 1 (f) a probation and parole officer authorized to carry a firearm under 46-23-1002;
- 2 (g) a person issued a permit under 45-8-321 or a person with a permit recognized under 45-8-329;
- 3 (h) an agent of the department of justice or a criminal investigator in a county attorney's office;
- 4 (i) a person who is outside the official boundaries of a city or town or the confines of a logging, lumbering,
- 5 mining, or railroad camp or who is lawfully engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, backpacking,
- 6 farming, ranching, or other outdoor activity in which weapons are often carried for recreation or protection;
- 7 (j) the carrying of arms on one's own premises or at one's home or place of business; or
- 8 (k) the carrying of a concealed weapon in the state capitol by a legislative security officer who has been
- 9 issued a permit under 45-8-321 or with a permit recognized under 45-8-329-;
- 10 (l) a senator or representative currently serving as a member of the Montana legislature carrying a
- 11 handgun as provided in [section 1]; or
- 12 (m) a person currently serving as the house or senate sergeant-at-arms or a deputy house or senate
- 13 sergeant-at-arms carrying a handgun as provided in [section 1]; or
- 14 (2) With regard to a person issued a permit under 45-8-321, the provisions of 45-8-328 do not apply to
- 15 this section."

16

17 **Section 3.** Section 45-8-328, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"45-8-328. Carrying concealed weapon in prohibited place -- penalty.** (1) Except for legislative

19 security officers authorized to carry a concealed weapon in the state capitol as provided in 45-8-317(1)(k), a

20 person commits the offense of carrying a concealed weapon in a prohibited place if the person purposely or

21 knowingly carries a concealed weapon in:

22 (a) portions of a building used for state or local government offices and related areas in the building that

23 have been restricted;

24 (b) a bank, credit union, savings and loan institution, or similar institution during the institution's normal

25 business hours. It is not an offense under this section to carry a concealed weapon while:

26 (i) using an institution's drive-up window, automatic teller machine, or unstaffed night depository; or

27 (ii) at or near a branch office of an institution in a mall, grocery store, or other place unless the person

28 is inside the enclosure used for the institution's financial services or is using the institution's financial services.

29 (c) a room in which alcoholic beverages are sold, dispensed, and consumed under a license issued

30 under Title 16 for the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises.

1           (2) The provisions of subsection (1)(a) do not apply to:

2           (a) a senator or representative currently serving as a member of the Montana legislature who carries  
3 a handgun in compliance with [section 1]; or

4           (b) a person currently serving as the house or senate sergeant-at-arms or a deputy house or senate  
5 sergeant-at-arms who carries a handgun in compliance with [section 1].

6           ~~(2)~~(3) It is not a defense that the person had a valid permit to carry a concealed weapon. A person  
7 convicted of the offense shall be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months or fined an  
8 amount not to exceed \$500, or both."

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10           **Section 4.** Section 45-8-351, MCA, is amended to read:

11           **"45-8-351. Restriction on local government regulation of firearms.** (1) Except as provided in  
12 subsection (2), a county, city, town, consolidated local government, or other local government unit may not  
13 prohibit, register, tax, license, or regulate the purchase, sale or other transfer (including delay in purchase, sale,  
14 or other transfer), ownership, possession, transportation, use, or unconcealed carrying of any weapon, including  
15 a rifle, shotgun, handgun, or concealed handgun.

16           (2) (a) For public safety purposes, a city or town may regulate the discharge of rifles, shotguns, and  
17 handguns. A county, city, town, consolidated local government, or other local government unit has power to  
18 prevent and suppress the carrying of concealed or unconcealed weapons to a public assembly, publicly owned  
19 building, park under its jurisdiction, or school, and the possession of firearms by convicted felons, adjudicated  
20 mental incompetents, illegal aliens, and minors.

21           (b) Nothing contained in this section allows any government to prohibit the legitimate display of firearms  
22 at shows or other public occasions by collectors and others or to prohibit the legitimate transportation of firearms  
23 through any jurisdiction, whether in airports or otherwise.

24           (c) A local ordinance enacted pursuant to this section may not prohibit:

25           (i) a legislative security officer who has been issued a concealed weapon permit from carrying a  
26 concealed weapon in the state capitol as provided in 45-8-317;

27           (ii) a senator or representative currently serving as a member of the Montana legislature from carrying  
28 a handgun as provided in [section 1]; or

29           (iii) a person currently serving as the house or senate sergeant-at-arms or a deputy house or senate  
30 sergeant-at-arms from carrying a handgun in compliance with [section 1]."

