

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 644

By: Stephens, Hamilton,  
Bullard, Bergstrom and Jett  
of the Senate

3  
4 and

5 Roberts (Sean) and McDugle  
6 of the House

7 An Act relating to firearms; amending 21 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 1277, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter  
9 235, O.S.L. 2019 (21 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 1277),  
10 which relates to the unlawful carry of firearms in  
11 certain places; authorizing municipalities to allow  
12 for the carry of concealed firearms by municipal  
13 employees for personal protection; providing  
14 eligibility requirements; providing conditions by  
15 which firearms shall be carried and stored; providing  
16 immunity from civil and criminal liability under  
17 certain circumstances; prohibiting the carrying of  
18 firearms at firearm-prohibited locations; providing  
19 penalty; defining term; providing construing  
20 provision related to the carrying of firearms by  
21 municipal employees; and providing an effective date.

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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2011, Section 1277, as  
last amended by Section 1, Chapter 235, O.S.L. 2019 (21 O.S. Supp.  
2020, Section 1277), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1277.

UNLAWFUL CARRY IN CERTAIN PLACES

A. It shall be unlawful for any person, including a person in  
possession of a valid handgun license issued pursuant to the

1 provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act<sup>7</sup> to carry any concealed  
2 or unconcealed ~~handgun~~ firearm into any of the following places:

3 1. Any structure, building<sup>7</sup> or office space which is owned or  
4 leased by a city, town, county, state or federal governmental  
5 authority for the purpose of conducting business with the public;

6 2. Any courthouse, courtroom, prison, jail, detention facility  
7 or any facility used to process, hold or house arrested persons,  
8 prisoners or persons alleged delinquent or adjudicated delinquent,  
9 except as provided in Section 21 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma  
10 Statutes;

11 3. Any public or private elementary or public or private  
12 secondary school, except as provided in subsections C and D of this  
13 section;

14 4. Any publicly owned or operated sports arena or venue during  
15 a professional sporting event, unless allowed by the event holder;

16 5. Any place where gambling is authorized by law, unless  
17 allowed by the property owner; and

18 6. Any other place specifically prohibited by law.

19 B. For purposes of subsection A of this section, the prohibited  
20 place does not include and specifically excludes the following  
21 property:

22 1. Any property set aside for the use or parking of any  
23 vehicle, whether attended or unattended, by a city, town, county,  
24 state or federal governmental authority;

1        2. Any property set aside for the use or parking of any  
2 vehicle, whether attended or unattended, which is open to the  
3 public, or by any entity engaged in gambling authorized by law;

4        3. Any property adjacent to a structure, building or office  
5 space in which concealed or unconcealed weapons are prohibited by  
6 the provisions of this section;

7        4. Any property designated by a city, town, county or state  
8 governmental authority as a park, recreational area, wildlife  
9 refuge, wildlife management area or fairgrounds; provided, nothing  
10 in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize any entry by a  
11 person in possession of a concealed or unconcealed firearm into any  
12 structure, building or office space which is specifically prohibited  
13 by the provisions of subsection A of this section; and

14        5. Any property set aside by a public or private elementary or  
15 secondary school for the use or parking of any vehicle, whether  
16 attended or unattended; provided, however, the firearm shall be  
17 stored and hidden from view in a locked motor vehicle when the motor  
18 vehicle is left unattended on school property.

19        Nothing contained in any provision of this subsection or  
20 subsection C of this section shall be construed to authorize or  
21 allow any person in control of any place described in subsection A  
22 of this section to establish any policy or rule that has the effect  
23 of prohibiting any person in lawful possession of a handgun license  
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1 or otherwise in lawful possession of a firearm from carrying or  
2 possessing the firearm on the property described in this subsection.

3 C. A concealed or unconcealed weapon may be carried onto  
4 private school property or in any school bus or vehicle used by any  
5 private school for transportation of students or teachers by a  
6 person who is licensed pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act<sup>7i</sup>;  
7 provided, a policy has been adopted by the governing entity of the  
8 private school that authorizes the carrying and possession of a  
9 weapon on private school property or in any school bus or vehicle  
10 used by a private school. Except for acts of gross negligence or  
11 willful or wanton misconduct, a governing entity of a private school  
12 that adopts a policy which authorizes the possession of a weapon on  
13 private school property, a school bus or vehicle used by the private  
14 school shall be immune from liability for any injuries arising from  
15 the adoption of the policy. The provisions of this subsection shall  
16 not apply to claims pursuant to the Administrative Workers'  
17 Compensation Act.

18 D. Notwithstanding paragraph 3 of subsection A of this section,  
19 a board of education of a school district may adopt a policy  
20 pursuant to Section 5-149.2 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes to  
21 authorize the carrying of a handgun onto school property by school  
22 personnel specifically designated by the board of education<sup>7i</sup>;  
23 provided, such personnel either:  
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- 1           1. Possess a valid armed security guard license as provided for  
2 in Section 1750.1 et seq. of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes; or  
3           2. Hold a valid reserve peace officer certification as provided  
4 for in Section 3311 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

5 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to restrict authority  
6 granted elsewhere in law to carry firearms.

7           E. In any municipal zoo or park of any size that is owned,  
8 leased, operated or managed by:

9           1. A public trust created pursuant to the provisions of Section  
10 176 of Title 60 of the Oklahoma Statutes; or

11           2. A nonprofit entity,  
12 an individual shall be allowed to carry a concealed handgun but not  
13 openly carry a handgun on the property.

14           F. Any person violating the provisions of paragraph 2 or 3 of  
15 subsection A of this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a  
16 misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty  
17 Dollars (\$250.00). A person violating any other provision of  
18 subsection A of this section may be denied entrance onto the  
19 property or removed from the property. If the person refuses to  
20 leave the property and a peace officer is summoned, the person may  
21 be issued a citation for an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty  
22 Dollars (\$250.00).

23           G. No person in possession of a valid handgun license issued  
24 pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act or who

1 is carrying or in possession of a firearm as otherwise permitted by  
2 law or who is carrying or in possession of a machete, blackjack,  
3 loaded cane, hand chain or metal knuckles shall be authorized to  
4 carry the firearm, machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain or  
5 metal knuckles into or upon any college, university or technology  
6 center school property, except as provided in this subsection. For  
7 purposes of this subsection, the following property shall not be  
8 construed to be college, university or technology center school  
9 property:

10 1. Any property set aside for the use or parking of any motor  
11 vehicle, whether attended or unattended, provided the firearm,  
12 machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain or metal knuckles are  
13 carried or stored as required by law and the firearm, machete,  
14 blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain or metal knuckles are not removed  
15 from the motor vehicle without the prior consent of the college or  
16 university president or technology center school administrator while  
17 the vehicle is on any college, university or technology center  
18 school property;

19 2. Any property authorized for possession or use of firearms,  
20 machetes, blackjacks, loaded canes, hand chains or metal knuckles by  
21 college, university or technology center school policy; and

22 3. Any property authorized by the written consent of the  
23 college or university president or technology center school  
24 administrator, provided the written consent is carried with the

1 firearm, machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain or metal  
2 knuckles and the valid handgun license while on college, university  
3 or technology center school property.

4 The college, university or technology center school may notify  
5 the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation within ten (10) days of a  
6 violation of any provision of this subsection by a licensee. Upon  
7 receipt of a written notification of violation, the Bureau shall  
8 give a reasonable notice to the licensee and hold a hearing. At the  
9 hearing, upon a determination that the licensee has violated any  
10 provision of this subsection, the licensee may be subject to an  
11 administrative fine of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) and may  
12 have the handgun license suspended for three (3) months.

13 Nothing contained in any provision of this subsection shall be  
14 construed to authorize or allow any college, university or  
15 technology center school to establish any policy or rule that has  
16 the effect of prohibiting any person in lawful possession of a  
17 handgun license or any person in lawful possession of a firearm,  
18 machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain or metal knuckles from  
19 possession of a firearm, machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain  
20 or metal knuckles in places described in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of  
21 this subsection. Nothing contained in any provision of this  
22 subsection shall be construed to limit the authority of any college,  
23 university or technology center school in this state from taking

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1 administrative action against any student for any violation of any  
2 provision of this subsection.

3 H. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the  
4 following:

5 1. Any peace officer or any person authorized by law to carry a  
6 firearm in the course of employment;

7 2. District judges, associate district judges and special  
8 district judges, who are in possession of a valid handgun license  
9 issued pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act  
10 and whose names appear on a list maintained by the Administrative  
11 Director of the Courts, when acting in the course and scope of  
12 employment within the courthouses of this state;

13 3. Private investigators with a firearms authorization when  
14 acting in the course and scope of employment;

15 4. Elected officials of a county, who are in possession of a  
16 valid handgun license issued pursuant to the provisions of the  
17 Oklahoma Self-Defense Act, may carry a concealed handgun when acting  
18 in the performance of their duties within the courthouses of the  
19 county in which he or she was elected. The provisions of this  
20 paragraph shall not allow the elected county official to carry the  
21 handgun into a courtroom;

22 5. The sheriff of any county may authorize certain employees of  
23 the county, who possess a valid handgun license issued pursuant to  
24 the provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act, to carry a

1 concealed handgun when acting in the course and scope of employment  
2 within the courthouses in the county in which the person is  
3 employed. Nothing in the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act shall prohibit  
4 the sheriff from requiring additional instruction or training before  
5 receiving authorization to carry a concealed handgun within the  
6 courthouse. The provisions of this paragraph and of paragraph 6 of  
7 this subsection shall not allow the county employee to carry the  
8 handgun into a courtroom, sheriff's office, adult or juvenile jail  
9 or any other prisoner detention area; and

10 6. The board of county commissioners of any county may  
11 authorize certain employees of the county, who possess a valid  
12 handgun license issued pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma  
13 Self-Defense Act, to carry a concealed handgun when acting in the  
14 course and scope of employment on county annex facilities or grounds  
15 surrounding the county courthouse.

16 I. 1. Municipalities may, by ordinance, authorize all or  
17 certain municipal employees to carry concealed firearms, as defined  
18 in Section 1290.2 of this title, for their personal protection  
19 according to the terms and conditions outlined in this subsection.  
20 To be eligible to carry a concealed firearm while working and  
21 employed on a municipal property, the employee must have been issued  
22 a valid handgun license pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma  
23 Self-Defense Act.

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1        2. Carrying a firearm as authorized in this section shall not  
2 in any way be considered a requirement for continued employment with  
3 the municipality, municipal authority or municipal trust.

4        3. When carrying a firearm pursuant to this subsection, the  
5 employee shall at all times carry the firearm on his or her person  
6 or the firearm shall be stored in a locked and secured location  
7 which is permanently affixed or tethered at the expense of the  
8 employee and with permission of the governing body. The  
9 municipality shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injuries  
10 that occur in relation to or caused by the possession or storage of  
11 a firearm under the provisions of this subsection.

12        4. Any municipal employee authorized to carry a firearm under  
13 the provisions of this subsection, while acting in a reasonable and  
14 prudent manner, shall be immune from civil and criminal liability  
15 for any injury resulting from the carrying, accidental discharge or  
16 intentional discharge of a handgun on municipal property as provided  
17 in this subsection. Any municipality, public authority or trust  
18 with a municipality as a beneficiary, city council, board of  
19 trustees or participating local law enforcement agency, whose  
20 authorized employee is acting in a reasonable and prudent manner,  
21 shall be immune from civil and criminal liability for any injury,  
22 act or other suit at law or in equity resulting from any act,  
23 failure to act or refusal to act committed by a municipal employee  
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1 who carries, accidentally discharges or intentionally discharges a  
2 handgun on municipal property as authorized by this subsection.

3 5. For purposes of this subsection, firearms may only be  
4 carried by a municipal employee in the place of employment of the  
5 municipal employee during working hours, unless the location is a  
6 firearm-prohibited location. In addition to any employment  
7 disciplinary actions, any person who violates the provisions of this  
8 subsection shall be subject to the penalties provided for in  
9 subsection F of this section. As used in this paragraph, "firearm-  
10 prohibited location" shall include the following locations:

11 a. any room, location or other public place where public  
12 meetings or other meetings governed by the Oklahoma  
13 Open Meeting Act occur,

14 b. any room, location or other place on municipally  
15 owned, leased or maintained property designated as a  
16 firearm-prohibited location by the municipal  
17 government, and

18 c. any police department, courthouse, courtroom, prison,  
19 jail, detention facility or any facility used to  
20 process, hold or house arrested persons, prisoners or  
21 persons alleged delinquent or adjudicated delinquent.

22 6. Nothing in this section should be construed as a mechanism  
23 to allow municipal employees to carry a firearm as a duty or  
24 function of their employment with the municipality. Any act

1 concerning the carrying of a firearm, a refusal or failure to act  
2 with a firearm or the accidental or intentional discharge of a  
3 firearm shall be considered taken on the personal behalf of the  
4 municipal employee and not on behalf of the municipality and shall  
5 not be considered an act performed within the scope of duties of the  
6 employee, nor shall it be construed as an act by the municipality,  
7 municipal authority or municipal trust, or any employee thereof.

8       J. For the purposes of this section, "motor vehicle" means any  
9 automobile, truck, minivan, or sports utility vehicle, or motorcycle  
10 as defined in Section 1-135 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
11 equipped with a locked accessory container within or affixed to the  
12 motorcycle.

13       SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

14       Passed the Senate the 9th day of March, 2021.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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18       Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,

19 2021.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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