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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Metts, Goodwin, and Pichardo

Date Introduced: March 19, 2015

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Attorney General)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **11-47-8. License or permit required for carrying pistol -- Possession of machine gun.**

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

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

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

12 (d) No person shall carry a rifle or shotgun in any vehicle or conveyance or on or about  
13 his or her person whether visible or concealed, except in his or her dwelling house or place of  
14 business or on land possessed by him or her. Every person violating the provisions of this  
15 subsection shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more  
16 than ten (10) years, or by a fine of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or both. Except for a first  
17 conviction under this subsection, the person shall not be afforded the provisions of suspension or  
18 deferment of sentence, nor probation. This subsection shall not apply to those persons engaged in  
19 lawful hunting activities as provided for in chapter 13 of title 20, lawful target shooting within  
20 this state, or lawfully engaged in any of the activities authorized by § 11-47-9.

21 **11-47-9. Persons exempt from restrictions.** -- (a) The provisions of § 11-47-8 shall not  
22 apply to sheriffs; deputy sheriffs; the superintendent and members of the state police; members of  
23 the Rhode Island airport police department; members of the Rhode Island state marshals; Rhode  
24 Island state fire marshal; chief deputy state fire marshals; deputy state fire marshals assigned to  
25 the bomb squad, and those assigned to the investigation unit; Providence fire department arson  
26 investigators, provided that the investigator receiving the permit is a graduate of a police-training  
27 academy; correctional officers, within the department of corrections; members of the city or town  
28 police force; capitol police investigators of the department of attorney general appointed pursuant  
29 to § 42-9-8.1; the witness protection coordinator for the witness protection review board as set  
30 forth in chapter 30 of title 12 and subject to the minimum qualifications of § 42-9-8.1; automobile  
31 theft investigators of the Rhode Island state police pursuant to § 31-50-1; railroad police while  
32 traveling to and from official assignments or while on assignments; conservation officers; or  
33 other duly appointed law enforcement officers; nor to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force,  
34 and Marine Corps of the United States, the National Guard, or organized reserves, when on duty;

1 nor to members of organizations by law authorized to purchase or receive firearms from the  
2 United States or this state, provided these members are at, or going to or from, their places of  
3 assembly or target practice; nor to officers or employees of the United States authorized by law to  
4 carry a concealed firearm; nor to any civilian guard or criminal investigator carrying sidearms or  
5 a concealed firearm in the performance of his or her official duties under the authority of the  
6 commanding officer of the military establishment in the state of Rhode Island where he or she is  
7 employed by the United States; nor to any civilian guard carrying sidearms or a concealed firearm  
8 in the performance of his or her official duties under the authority of the adjutant general where  
9 he or she is employed guarding a national guard facility, provided, that the commanding officer  
10 of the military establishment shall have on file with the attorney general of this state a list of the  
11 names and addresses of all civilian guards and criminal investigators so authorized; nor to duly  
12 authorized military organizations when on duty; nor to members when at, or going to or from,  
13 their customary places of assembly; nor to any individual employed in the capacity of warden,  
14 associate warden, major, captain, lieutenant, sergeant, correctional officer or investigator at any  
15 project owned or operated by a municipal detention facility corporation, including the Donald W.  
16 Wyatt Detention Facility; nor to the regular and/or ordinary transportation of pistols, ~~or~~ revolvers,  
17 [rifles or shotguns](#) as merchandise; nor to any person while transporting a pistol, ~~or~~ revolvers,  
18 [rifles or shotguns](#) unloaded from the place of purchase to their residence; or place of business,  
19 from their residence to their place of business or from their place of business to their residence, or  
20 to a federal firearms licensee for the purpose of sale, to or from a bona fide gunsmith, or firearms  
21 repair facility, to any police station or other location designated as a site of a bona fide "gun buy-  
22 back" program, but only if said pistol, ~~or~~ revolver, [rifle or shotgun](#) is unloaded and any  
23 ammunition for said pistol, ~~or~~ revolver, [rifle or shotgun](#) is not readily or directly accessible from  
24 the passenger compartment of such vehicle while transporting same and further provided, that in  
25 the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the  
26 firearm or the ammunition shall be stored in a locked container.

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

31 **11-47-30. Sale, transfer or delivery of firearms to minors.** -- (a) It shall be unlawful  
32 within this state for any person to sell, transfer, give, convey, or cause to be sold, transferred,  
33 given or conveyed any firearm to any person under eighteen (18) years of age, when the person  
34 knows or has reason to know that the recipient is under eighteen (18) years of age, except for the

1 limited purposes set forth in §§ 11-47-33 and 11-47-34 and with the prior approval or consent of  
2 the parent or legal guardian of the minor.

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

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

14 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 make it unlawful for a person to carry a rifle or shotgun in any vehicle or  
2 conveyance or on or about his or her person whether visible or concealed subject to certain  
3 exceptions including his or her dwelling, place of business, or land.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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