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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS -- CONCEALED CARRY REFORM

Introduced By: Representatives Place, J. Brien, and Rea

Date Introduced: January 31, 2024

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-47-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons" is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-47-9. Persons exempt from restrictions.**

4 (a) The provisions of § 11-47-8 shall not apply to sheriffs; deputy sheriffs; the
5 superintendent and members of the state police; members of the Rhode Island airport police
6 department; members of the Rhode Island state marshals; Rhode Island state fire marshal; chief
7 deputy state fire marshals; deputy state fire marshals assigned to the bomb squad, and those
8 assigned to the investigation unit; Providence fire department arson investigators, provided that the
9 investigator receiving the permit is a graduate of a police-training academy; correctional officers,
10 chief inspector and inspectors within the office of inspections, within the department of corrections;
11 members of the city or town police force; capitol police investigators of the department of attorney
12 general appointed pursuant to § 42-9-8.1; the witness protection coordinator for the witness
13 protection review board as set forth in chapter 30 of title 12 and subject to the minimum
14 qualifications of § 42-9-8.1; automobile theft investigators of the Rhode Island state police pursuant
15 to § 31-50-1; railroad police while traveling to and from official assignments or while on
16 assignments; conservation officers; or other duly appointed law enforcement officers; nor to
17 members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps of the United States, the National Guard,
18 or organized reserves, when on duty; nor to members of organizations by law authorized to
19 purchase or receive firearms from the United States or this state, provided these members are at, or

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

24 (b) The provisions of § 11-47-8 shall not apply to any person who carries a concealed or
25 non-concealed weapon, or a person who may lawfully possess a firearm and who carries a
26 concealed or non-concealed firearm, on or about their person while in the act of evacuating during
27 a mandatory evacuation order during a state of emergency declared by the governor pursuant to §
28 30-15-9 or by a local authority pursuant to § 30-15-12. As used in this section, the term "in the act
29 of evacuating" means the immediate and urgent movement of a person or persons away from the
30 evacuation zone within forty-eight (48) hours after a mandatory evacuation is ordered. The forty-
31 eight (48) hour period may be extended pursuant to the powers granted the governor or local
32 authorities pursuant to chapter 15 of title 30.

33 ~~(b)~~(c) Persons exempted by the provisions of this section from the provisions of § 11-47-8
34 shall have the right to carry concealed firearms everywhere within this state; provided, that this

1 shall not be construed as giving the right to carry concealed firearms to a person transporting
2 firearms as merchandise or as household or business goods.

3 (d) The attorney general shall have the authority to enter into agreements or otherwise
4 formally approve reciprocal recognition with other states that require an agreement to be in place
5 before that state will recognize a Rhode Island attorney general and a city or town police department
6 concealed handgun permit as valid.

7 (e) The State of Rhode Island shall recognize and honor a concealed handgun or concealed
8 weapon permit or license issued by any other state or county, provided:

9 (1) The permit or license holder is a non-resident who is twenty-one (21) years of age or
10 older;

11 (2) The reciprocal state or county provides the means for instantaneous verification of the
12 validity of all such permits or licenses issued within that state or county, accessible twenty-four
13 (24) hours a day;

14 (3) The permit or license holder has in their possession the concealed handgun or concealed
15 weapon permit or license along with a photo identification issued by a state or government agency
16 and presents for verification the permit or license and identification upon demand by a law
17 enforcement officer; and

18 (4) The permit or license holder is subject to the same laws and restrictions with respect to

19 (f) The State of Rhode Island shall recognize an official government issued law
20 enforcement identification card issued to an active-duty law enforcement officer from any other
21 state or county. These individuals shall be exempted from the provisions of § 11-47-8 and shall have
22 the right to carry a concealed firearm everywhere within the state.

23 SECTION 2. Sections 11-47-2, 11-47-11, 11-47-12 and 11-47-18 of the General Laws in
24 Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons" are hereby amended to read as follows:

25 **11-47-2. Definitions.**

26 When used in this chapter, the following words and phrases are construed as follows:

27 (1) "3D printing process" means 3D printing or additive manufacturing which is a process
28 of making three (3) dimensional solid objects from a computer file and shall include any of various
29 processes in which material is joined or solidified under computer control to create a three (3)
30 dimensional object, with material being added together including liquid molecules or powder
31 grains.

32 (2) "Antique firearm" is defined as that term is defined under the provisions of 18 U.S.C.
33 § 921.

34 (3) "Binary trigger" means a device that replaces a standard trigger on a semi-automatic

1 weapon and is designed to fire one round on the pull of the trigger and another round upon release
2 of the trigger.

3 (4) "Bump-fire stock" means any device that replaces a semi-automatic weapon's standard
4 stock and is designed to slide back and forth rapidly, harnessing the weapon's recoil to rapidly fire
5 the weapon.

6 (5) "Crime of violence" means and includes any of the following crimes or an attempt to
7 commit any of them: murder, manslaughter, rape, first- or second-degree sexual assault, first- or
8 second-degree child molestation, kidnapping, first- and second-degree arson, mayhem, robbery,
9 burglary, breaking and entering, any felony violation involving the illegal manufacture, sale, or
10 delivery of a controlled substance, or possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver a
11 controlled substance classified in schedule I or schedule II of § 21-28-2.08, any violation of § 21-
12 28-4.01.1 or § 21-28-4.01.2 or conspiracy to commit any violation of these statutes, assault with a
13 dangerous weapon, assault or battery involving grave bodily injury, or assault with intent to commit
14 any offense punishable as a felony; upon any conviction of an offense punishable as a felony
15 offense under § 12-29-5.

16 (6) "Firearm" includes any machine gun, pistol, rifle, air rifle, air pistol, "blank gun," "BB
17 gun," or other instrument from which steel or metal projectiles are propelled, or that may readily
18 be converted to expel a projectile, except crossbows, recurve, compound, or longbows, and except
19 instruments propelling projectiles that are designed or normally used for a primary purpose other
20 than as a weapon. The frame or receiver of the weapon shall be construed as a firearm under the
21 provisions of this section.

22 (7) "Fugitive from justice" means any person who has fled from any state, territory, the
23 District of Columbia, or possession of the United States to avoid prosecution for a crime of violence
24 or to avoid giving testimony in any criminal proceeding.

25 (8) "Ghost gun" means a firearm, including a frame or receiver, that lacks a unique serial
26 number engraved or cased in metal alloy on the frame or receiver by a licensed manufacturer,
27 maker, or importer under federal law or markings in accordance with 27 C.F.R. § 479.102. It does
28 not include a firearm that has been rendered permanently inoperable, or a firearm that is not
29 required to have a serial number in accordance with the federal Gun Control Act of 1968.

30 (9) "Licensing authorities" means the board of police commissioners of a city or town
31 where the board has been instituted, the chief of police or superintendent of police of other cities
32 and towns having a regular organized police force, and, in towns where there is no chief of police
33 or superintendent of police, it means the town clerk who may issue licenses upon the
34 recommendation of the town sergeant, and it also means any other person or body duly authorized

1 by the city or town charter or by state law.

2 (10) "Machine gun" means any weapon that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily
3 restored to shoot automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function
4 of the trigger. The term also includes the frame or receiver of the weapon, any combination of parts
5 designed and intended for use in converting a weapon into a machine gun, and any combination of
6 parts from which a machine gun can be assembled if the parts are in the possession or under the
7 control of a person.

8 (11) "Major component" means, with respect to a firearm:

9 (i) The slide or cylinder or the frame or receiver of the firearm; and

10 (ii) In the case of a rifle or shotgun, includes the barrel of the firearm.

11 (12) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, firm, association, or corporation.

12 (13) "Pistol" includes any pistol or revolver, and any shotgun, rifle, or similar weapon with
13 overall length less than twenty-six inches (26"), but does not include any pistol or revolver designed
14 for the use of blank cartridges only.

15 (14) "Rifle" shall have the same meaning as in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(c), and by barrel length
16 and overall length not be subject to registration pursuant to the National Firearms Act, 26 U.S.C.
17 ch. 53 (prior § 5801 et seq.).

18 (15) "Sawed-off rifle" means any rifle with overall length of less than twenty-six inches
19 (26") or barrel length of less than sixteen inches (16").

20 (16) "Sawed-off shotgun" means any shotgun with overall length of less than twenty-six
21 inches (26") or barrel length of less than eighteen inches (18").

22 (17) "Sell" includes let or hire, give, lend, and transfer, and "purchase" includes hire,
23 accept, and borrow, and "purchasing" shall be construed accordingly.

24 (18) "Shotgun" shall have the same meaning as in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(d), and by barrel length
25 and overall length not be subject to registration pursuant to the National Firearms Act, 26 U.S.C.
26 ch. 53 (prior § 5801 et seq.).

27 (19) "Suitable person" means any person who is not prohibited by state law from possessing
28 a pistol or revolver. A person may be considered unsuitable if the licensing authority has clear and
29 convincing evidence that the person is a clear and present danger to themselves or to another person.

30 ~~(19)~~(20) "Trigger crank" means a trigger actuator that attaches to the trigger of a semi-
31 automatic weapon and causes the weapon to fire by turning the crank handle.

32 ~~(20)~~(21) "Undetectable firearm" means any firearm that:

33 (i) After removal of all parts, other than a major component, is not as detectable by walk-
34 through metal detectors commonly used at airports or other public buildings; or

1 (ii) Any major component of which, if subjected to inspection by the types of detection
2 devices commonly used at airports or other public buildings for security screening, would not
3 generate an image that accurately depicts the shape of the component; or

4 (iii) Is manufactured wholly of plastic, fiberglass, or through a 3D printing process; or

5 (iv) Upon which the frame or receiver lacks a unique serial number engraved or cased into
6 on the frame or receiver by a licensed manufacturer, maker, or importer under federal law, or
7 markings in accordance with 27 C.F.R. § 479.102. Provided, however, this subsection shall not
8 apply to any firearm rendered permanently inoperable or a firearm manufactured prior to 1968.

9 **11-47-11. License or permit to carry concealed pistol or revolver.**

10 (a) The licensing authorities of any city or town shall, upon application of any person
11 twenty-one (21) years of age or over having a bona fide residence or place of business within the
12 city or town, or of any person twenty-one (21) years of age or over having a bona fide residence
13 within the United States and a license or permit to carry a pistol or revolver concealed upon his or
14 her person issued by the authorities of any other state or subdivision of the United States, issue a
15 license or permit to the person to carry concealed upon his or her person a pistol or revolver
16 everywhere within this state for four (4) years from date of issue, if ~~it appears that~~ the applicant has
17 good reason to fear an injury to his or her person or property or has any ~~other proper~~ lawful reason
18 for carrying a pistol or revolver, and that he or she is a suitable person to be so licensed, subject to
19 the provisions of §§ 11-47-12 and 11-47-15. Self-defense shall be considered a proper purpose and
20 lawful reason.

21 (1) The license or permit shall be in triplicate in form to be prescribed by the attorney
22 general and shall bear the fingerprint, photograph, name, address, description, and signature of the
23 licensee and the reason given for desiring a license or permit and in no case shall it contain the
24 serial number of any firearm. The original shall be delivered to the licensee.

25 (2) The licensing authority shall retain a copy of the permit for its records and send a second
26 copy to the department of attorney general. All permits issued or renewed pursuant to this section
27 shall be recorded in the Rhode Island criminal history data base, or its successor system.

28 (3) Any member of the licensing authority, its agents, servants, and employees shall be
29 immune from suit in any action, civil or criminal, based upon any official act or decision, performed
30 or made in good faith in issuing a license or permit under this chapter.

31 (b) Notwithstanding any other chapter or section of the general laws of the state of Rhode
32 Island, the licensing authority of any city or town shall not provide or release to any individual,
33 firm, association or corporation the name, address, or date of birth of any person who has held or
34 currently holds a license or permit to carry a concealed pistol or revolver. This section shall not be

1 construed to prohibit the release of any statistical data of a general nature relative to age, gender
2 and racial or ethnic background nor shall it be construed to prevent the release of information to
3 parties involved in any prosecution of § 11-47-8 or in response to a lawful subpoena in any criminal
4 or civil action which the person is a party to that action.

5 (c) The licensing authority shall within fourteen (14) calendar days, return any incomplete
6 application to the applicant along with a written explanation, stating with specificity, why the
7 application is incomplete.

8 (d) The licensing authority shall approve or deny a complete application within ninety (90)
9 calendar days of receiving it.

10 (1) Within seven (7) business days after approval, the license shall be made available for
11 the applicant to pick up in person or at the request and expense of the applicant, be delivered by
12 mail.

13 (2) Any denial shall be in writing and state with specificity the reason(s) and evidence upon
14 which the licensing authority based its decision on and the rationale for the denial.

15 (3) Failure by the licensing authority to approve or deny within the time allowed shall
16 constitute a denial for the sole purpose of permitting an appeal by the applicant and for no other
17 purpose, and shall create a presumption that no evidence exists indicating that the applicant is
18 unsuitable.

19 (e) Any permit issued pursuant to this section is eligible to be renewed if it is not expired,
20 or has been expired for less than six (6) months. Any person whose permit has been expired for six
21 (6) months or more shall apply for a new permit under this section.

22 (f) Each licensing authority shall make its application available to any person by:

23 (1) Posting it on its website, if it has one; and

24 (2) Making it immediately available, free of charge, to any person who requests it; and

25 (3) Upon request, providing a copy by regular mail using the United States postal service.

26 (g) All applications shall require two (2) forms of identification, such as a driver's license,
27 state issued non-driver identification card, concealed carry permit issued by any state or political
28 subdivision of any state, passport, immigration documentation, military identification, Student
29 identification, social security card or a birth certificate. At least one of these items shall be a
30 government issued photo identification.

31 (1) The licensing authority shall only use the applicant's social security number for the
32 background check.

33 (h) All applications shall include a federal bureau of investigation (FBI) fingerprint card
34 {(FD-258) (Rev. 9-9-13 or successor version)}, or provide fingerprints by live-scan, with the

1 application, except that this subsection shall not be a requirement for a renewal applicant.

2 (i) All Applications shall include a copy of the instructor's credentials for the instructor
3 who certified their firing score on their application.

4 (j) All licensing authorities of a city or town shall use the following application:

5 Application for a concealed carry license pursuant to RIGL § 11-47-11

6 Name: _____

7 Address: _____

8 _____

9 (Street and number) (City or town) (State) (ZIP)

10 Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth _____

11 Height: _____ Weight: _____ Color hair: _____ Color eyes: _____

12 Are you a citizen of the United States? _____

13 If you are not a US citizen, please list your admission/INS number: _____

14 ARMY L or RI COMBAT COURSE shooting score: _____

15 Name and certification number of NRA or RI instructor: _____

16 Signature of instructor: _____

17 _____

18 Have you ever been convicted of a crime of violence (Pursuant to §11-47-2)? _____

19 Are you a fugitive from justice (Pursuant to §11-47-2)? _____

20 Have you ever been adjudicated as being addicted to a controlled substance (Pursuant to

21 §11-47-6)? _____

22 Have you ever been adjudicated as being mentally incompetent (Pursuant to §11-47-6)?

23 _____

24 Have you been dishonorably discharged from the United States Military? _____

25 To your knowledge, are you prohibited by federal or state law from possessing a firearm?

26 _____

27 For what lawful purpose do you seek to carry a pistol or revolver?

28 _____

29 Applicant's signature: _____

30 _____

31 (See § 11-47-23 for penalty for false information provided on this application)

32 AFFIDAVIT: I certify that I have read and am familiar with the provisions of the Firearms

33 Act, chapter 47 of title 11, of the general laws of the State of Rhode Island and that I am aware of

34 the penalties for violation of the provisions of the cited sections.

1 Signed before me under penalties of perjury by _____, known to me
2 personally or did present a valid photo identification card which
3 was _____

4 County of _____

5 State of Rhode

6 Subscribed and sworn before me this _____ of _____, 20_____

7 Notary Public

8 Notary Public number: _____

9 (k) No licensing authority shall require any additional forms, standards, information,
10 waivers or other additional requirements unless specifically requested by, or provided by, the
11 applicant.

12 (l) The licensing authority shall establish and maintain an emergency permit extension on
13 the renewal application for a license to carry a concealable weapon.

14 (1) The emergency permit extension is only available to renewal applicants who, at the
15 time of the application, have an unexpired four (4) year city or town issued license to carry a
16 concealable weapon and who shall maintain this license for work purposes.

17 (2) A complete renewal application shall be delivered to the licensing authority prior to the
18 license expiration date.

19 (3) The licensing authority shall, within three (3) business days of receipt of the renewal
20 application if there is no material change in the renewal application, no material change in need
21 and no change in applicant's criminal history, automatically approve and make available the
22 emergency permit.

23 (4) A fee of fifty dollars (\$50) shall be paid to the licensing authority for the emergency
24 permit extension upon the issuance of the emergency permit.

25 (5) An emergency license to carry a concealable weapon will be valid for ninety (90) days
26 only.

27 (6) Nothing in the emergency permit extension section shall be construed or interpreted to
28 stay or toll the time periods in the renewal process as outlined in subsection (e) of this section.

29 **11-47-12. License or permit fee.**

30 A fee of forty dollars (\$40.00) shall be charged and shall be paid for ~~each~~ a license or
31 permit to the licensing authority ~~issuing it~~ or the department of attorney general upon issuance. No
32 additional fees or costs of any type shall be charged or assessed for any reason, except that the
33 applicant may be assessed the actual cost charged by the FBI to process their fingerprints. Every
34 license or permit shall be valid for four (4) years from the date when issued unless sooner revoked.

1 subject to the emergency permit provisions contained in § 11-47-11. The fee charged for issuing of
2 the license or permit shall be applied for the use and benefit of the city, town, or ~~state of Rhode~~
3 ~~Island~~ the department of attorney general.

4 **11-47-18. License or permit issued by attorney general on showing of need — Issuance**
5 **to retired police officers.**

6 (a) The attorney general ~~may~~ shall issue a license or permit to any person twenty-one (21)
7 years of age or over to carry a pistol or revolver, whether concealed or not, upon his or her person
8 everywhere within this state for four (4) years from the date of issue upon a ~~proper~~ showing of
9 need, or the applicant has good reason to fear an injury to their person or property, or for
10 employment, and that they are a suitable person to be so licensed, subject to the provisions of §§
11 11-47-12 and 11-47-15; ~~that license or permit may be issued notwithstanding the provisions of §~~
12 ~~11-47-7.~~

13 (1) No licensing authority shall issue a license to carry a concealed permit to any person in
14 violation of § 11-47-7 and any license or permit issued shall immediately be revoked.

15 (b) All state police officers and permanent members of city and town police forces of this
16 state who have retired in good standing after at least twenty (20) years of service, or retired in good
17 standing due to a physical disability other than a psychological impairment, ~~may~~ shall be issued a
18 license or permit by the attorney general subject to the provisions of §§ 11-47-12 and 11-47-15.
19 The term “in good standing” means that at the time of retirement, the police officer was not facing
20 disciplinary action that could have resulted in his or her termination for misconduct or unfitness for
21 office. Any member of the licensing authority, and its agents, servants, and employees shall be
22 immune from suit in any action, civil or criminal, based upon any official act or decision, performed
23 or made in good faith in issuing and/or denying a license or permit under this chapter.

24 (c) Notwithstanding any other chapter or section of the general laws of the state of Rhode
25 Island, the attorney general shall not provide or release to any individual, firm, association or
26 corporation the name, address, or date of birth of any person who has held or currently holds a
27 license or permit to carry a concealed pistol or revolver. This section shall not be construed to
28 prohibit the release of any statistical data of a general nature relative to age, gender and racial or
29 ethnic background nor shall it be construed to prevent the release of information to parties involved
30 in any prosecution of § 11-47-8 or in response to a lawful subpoena in any criminal or civil action
31 which said person is a party to such action.

32 (d) Any permit issued pursuant to this section is eligible to be renewed if it is not expired,
33 or has been expired for less than six (6) months. Any person whose permit has been expired for six
34 (6) months or more shall apply for a new permit under this section.

1 (e) The attorney general's application for a license to carry a pistol or revolver shall be
2 filled out completely by the applicant, dated and signed by the applicant and notarized.

3 (f) The attorney general shall request only the following information on the application:

4 (1) Applicant's full name, prior name if legally changed, all nicknames and aliases, full
5 residence address and mailing address if different from the applicant's residence. No post office
6 box addresses shall be used for a mailing address.

7 (2) All applicant's available phone numbers, including, but not limited to, business,
8 cellular, mobile and land line phone numbers.

9 (3) The applicant's height, weight, color of eyes and hair, date and place of birth, and social
10 security number.

11 (4) If the permit is being sought as a condition of employment, the applicant's occupation,
12 job description, years of employment and employer's address and contact information.

13 (5) Applicant's proof of citizenship, length of citizenship and if applicant is not a citizen
14 of the United States, a copy of both sides of a current and valid alien registration card or work
15 authorization card.

16 (6) A listing of all of the applicant's addresses for the last three (3) years, including the full
17 address with dates of residence.

18 (7) Information relating to the applicant's arrest record including, but not limited to, the
19 date applicant was arrested, the name of the city/town or arresting agency, the state the arrest
20 occurred in, the arresting charge and disposition.

21 (8) Information relating to the applicant's plea of nolo contendere to any charge or violation
22 including, but not limited to, the date applicant was arrested, the name of the city/town or arresting
23 agency, the state the plea occurred in, the arresting charge and disposition.

24 (9) Information relating to the applicant's conviction record, including, but not limited, to
25 the date applicant was arrested, the name of the city/town or arresting agency, the state the arrest
26 occurred in, the arresting charge and disposition.

27 (10) Information relating to the applicant's indictment in any court for a crime punishable
28 for more than one year, including, but not limited to, the name of the city/town or indicting agency,
29 the state of the indictment, the indicting charge and disposition.

30 (11) Information relating to the applicant if he/she was ever under a guardianship or been
31 subject to confinement by virtue of being a mental incompetent, or who has been adjudicated or is
32 under treatment or confinement as a drug addict, including, but not limited to, the dates thereof.

33 (12) Information relating to the applicant's current and prior applications for a permit to
34 carry a pistol or revolver from the Rhode Island attorney general, any local city or town, or any

1 other state, including, but not limited to, if any permit is active, denied or revoked, with the dates
2 and reasons thereof. The attorney general shall require notarized photocopies of the front and back
3 of all valid permits.

4 (13) All non-resident applicants shall include a copy of both the front and the back of their
5 home state permit, if they have one.

6 (g) The attorney general shall require only the following with the application from an out-
7 of-state applicant:

8 (1) A dated, signed and notarized typed statement from the applicant outlining the
9 applicant's specific reasons and details regarding his or her need for a Rhode Island permit. If the
10 permit is to be used for employment, a typed and signed letter of explanation shall be submitted on
11 the applicant's employer's letterhead and included with the application. In addition, the applicant
12 shall submit a copy of the business license or other such evidence that the business exists.

13 (2) The applicant shall enclose two (2) 1" X 1" pictures of the applicant taken without
14 headgear or glasses. This photo shall be a clear, colored picture of the head and face. The applicant
15 shall print their name on the back of each picture. No laminated photos will be accepted.

16 (3) Copies of both the front and the back of two (2) types of positive identification for the
17 applicant, examples include, but are not limited to, birth certificate, United States Passport, a Rhode
18 Island or other state driver's license or a Rhode Island identification card, concealed carry permit
19 issued by any state or political subdivision of any state, military identification, student identification
20 or social security card. At least one of these items shall be a government issued photo identification.
21 The photocopies submitted shall be signed and dated by a notary public attesting to the photocopies
22 as being true copies.

23 (i) The licensing authority shall only use the applicant's social security number for the
24 background check.

25 (4) The application shall include the applicant's full set of fingerprints submitted on a FBI
26 fingerprint identification card {FD-258 (Rev. 9-9-13 or successor version)} or provide fingerprints
27 by live-scan included with the application. The fingerprint card shall be signed by the applicant.
28 Submission of fingerprints shall not be necessary for a renewal application

29 (5) Three (3) dated, signed and notarized typed reference letters from individuals who
30 personally know the applicant. The individuals used as references shall include on the letters the
31 following information: their full names, residence address, phone number with area code and the
32 years they have known the applicant. An applicant's reference letter dated more than one hundred
33 and twenty (120) days prior to the date of the permit application will be considered invalid.
34 Reference letters shall be written by the reference, not the applicant, and cannot be identical.

1 Submission of letters of reference shall not be necessary for a renewal application.

2 (6) A certification that the applicant has qualified in accordance with § 11-47-15. (Law
3 enforcement personnel may submit a certification of the Rhode Island Combat Course). An NRA
4 instructor or a police range officer shall sign and complete the certification which shall include the
5 date of the qualification, the printed name, phone number of the instructor, instructor NRA number,
6 the caliber of the weapon and the applicant's score. An applicant's qualification certification dated
7 more than one year prior to the date of the permit application will be considered invalid.

8 (7) A copy of the NRA instructor certification and/or the police officer's range certification
9 shall be submitted with the application.

10 (8) The applicant's legal residence may be required. The residency requirement may be
11 satisfied by any one of the following methods: the application may be signed by the applicant's
12 local licensing authority; the application may be signed by the city or town chief of police; the
13 application may be signed by the city or town clerk; or the applicant may submit a certified or
14 notarized copy the applicant's voter registration card.

15 (9) The applicant shall sign an affidavit certifying that he or she has read and is familiar
16 with the provision of the firearms act, chapter 47 of title 11, inclusive, as amended, and
17 acknowledges the penalties for violations of the provisions of the cited sections. The applicant shall
18 further attest that any alteration of the permit is just cause for revocation. The affidavit shall be
19 dated and notarized and shall indicate the date it was submitted to the licensing authority or the
20 police department.

21 (h) The attorney general shall, within ninety (90) days for an in-state applicant or one
22 hundred and twenty (120) days for an out-of-state applicant from the receipt of a complete
23 application either approve or deny the application.

24 (1) If the application is approved, the attorney general may require the applicant to appear
25 at the department of attorney general to sign and submit a fingerprint card for the permit.

26 (2) If the attorney general denies the application, the applicant shall be notified, either by
27 mail or by phone, that the entire application is available for pick-up by the applicant. Any denial
28 shall be in writing and state with specificity the reason(s) and evidence upon which the denial was
29 based and the rationale for the denial.

30 (3) If the attorney general deems the application incomplete, then the applicant shall be
31 notified, either by mail or by phone, within five (5) business days from submitting the application,
32 that the entire application is available for pick-up by the applicant along with a written response
33 stating the reason(s) why the application was deemed incomplete.

34 (i) The provisions of §§ 11-47-35 and 11-47-35.2 shall not apply to persons licensed under

1 §11-47-18.

2 (j) The attorney general's renewal application for a license to carry a carry a pistol or
3 revolver shall require the following:

4 (1) The applicant shall submit a fully complete, signed, dated and notarized renewal
5 application to the attorney general prior to the expiration date of the permit.

6 (2) The renewal application shall include only the information included in subsection (d)(1)
7 of this section and shall only contain the requirements included in subsection (d)(2) of this section,
8 with the following exceptions:

9 (i) The three (3) dated, signed and notarized typed reference letters from individuals who
10 personally know the applicant are not required upon renewal.

11 (ii) The fingerprint card requirement is not required upon renewal.

12 (3) The attorney general shall, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the renewal application,
13 if there is no material change in the applicant's renewal application, no material change in need and
14 no change in the applicant's criminal history, automatically approve the renewal application.

15 (k) The attorney general shall establish and maintain an emergency permit extension on the
16 renewal application for a license to carry a pistol or revolver.

17 (1) The emergency permit extension is only available to renewal applicants who, at the
18 time of the application, have an unexpired four (4) year attorney general license to carry a pistol or
19 revolver and who must maintain this license for work purposes.

20 (2) A complete renewal application shall be delivered to the department of attorney general
21 prior to the license expiration date.

22 (3) The attorney general shall, within three (3) business days of receipt of the renewal
23 application, if there is no material change in the applicant's renewal application, no material change
24 in need and no change in applicant's criminal history, automatically approve and make available
25 the emergency permit.

26 (4) A fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be paid to the attorney general for the emergency
27 permit extension upon the issuance of the emergency permit.

28 (5) An emergency license to carry a pistol or revolver will be valid for ninety (90) days
29 only.

30 (6) Nothing in the emergency permit extension section shall be construed or interpreted to
31 stay or toll the time periods in the renewal process as outlined in section (e) contained herein.

32 SECTION 3. Chapter 11-47 of the General Laws entitled "Weapons" is hereby amended
33 by adding thereto the following section:

34 **11-47-65. Review and appeal of the decision of the licensing authority or attorney**

1 **general.**

2 (a) A decision denying a firearms permit pursuant to either §11-47-11 or §11-47-18 shall
3 be final unless further review and/or appeal is initiated in writing within fifteen (15) days after the
4 decision has been mailed to the applicant at the address listed on the application.

5 (b) An aggrieved individual may submit a written request to reconsider the denial to the
6 licensing authority or the department of attorney general. Any request for reconsideration shall be
7 submitted within fifteen (15) days after the decision has been mailed to the address provided by the
8 applicant.

9 (1) The licensing authority or the department of attorney general shall schedule and conduct
10 an in-person meeting within thirty (30) days of the request to review and discuss the decision. Said
11 meeting shall only be scheduled or rescheduled beyond the initial thirty (30) day period by
12 agreement of the parties and/or for good cause, but in no event exceed sixty (60) days.

13 (2) The applicant shall submit any supplemental documentation or written evidence relative
14 to the application, which shall become part of the application.

15 (3) The meeting shall be conducted as an informal meeting, not as an administrative
16 hearing. The licensing authority or the department of attorney general shall receive and consider
17 documents and other evidence without regard to statutory and common law rules. No stenographic
18 record, transcription, video, audio or other recording shall be allowed.

19 (4) The applicant shall be represented by an attorney during the appeal process.

20 (5) The licensing authority or the department of attorney general shall, within fourteen (14)
21 days after the meeting, mail a decision to the applicant granting or denying the application. Any
22 denial shall be in writing and state with specificity the reason(s) and evidence upon which the denial
23 was based and the rationale for the denial.

24 (c) An aggrieved individual shall submit an appeal of the decision denying a firearms
25 permit pursuant to the decision of the request to reconsider to the superior court for the county in
26 which the licensing authority or attorney general is located, in the form of a miscellaneous petition,
27 within fifteen (15) days after the decision has been mailed to the applicant at the address listed on
28 the application.

29 (1) The petition for review shall state the grounds upon which review is sought but need
30 not be verified.

31 (2) Upon appeal, the petitioner is entitled to a trial de novo before a justice of the superior
32 court without a jury.

33 (3) Within thirty (30) days of the filing of the notice of appeal, the licensing authority or
34 attorney general shall provide a full, complete and certified copy of the application and all

1 submitted documents to both the petitioner and the superior court.

2 (d) Pursuant to chapter 2 of title 38, the request to reconsider and the appeal to superior
3 court shall not be deemed public. All documents, records and proceedings before the licensing
4 authority, the department of attorney general and the superior court are not open to the public but
5 may be accessed by law enforcement personnel to be used for law enforcement purposes related to
6 the appeal only and shall otherwise remain confidential.

7 (e) An applicant shall have their hearing open to the public upon written request to the
8 superior court.

9 (f) The superior court shall award reasonable attorney fees, costs and filing fees to the
10 prevailing applicant if the court finds that there is no justiciable issue of either law or fact or to the
11 prevailing applicant if the licensing authority or the department of attorney general did not have a
12 good faith basis in the denial of the license or permit.

13 SECTION 4. Section 38-2-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 38-2 entitled "Access to Public
14 Records" is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 **38-2-2. Definitions.**

16 As used in this chapter:

17 (1) "Agency" or "public body" means any executive, legislative, judicial, regulatory, or
18 administrative body of the state, or any political subdivision thereof; including, but not limited to:
19 any department, division, agency, commission, board, office, bureau, authority; any school, fire, or
20 water district, or other agency of Rhode Island state or local government that exercises
21 governmental functions; any authority as defined in § 42-35-1(b); or any other public or private
22 agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity acting on behalf of and/or in place of
23 any public agency.

24 (2) "Chief administrative officer" means the highest authority of the public body.

25 (3) "Public business" means any matter over which the public body has supervision,
26 control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

27 (4) "Public record" or "public records" shall mean all documents, papers, letters, maps,
28 books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data
29 processing records, computer stored data (including electronic mail messages, except specifically
30 for any electronic mail messages of or to elected officials with or relating to those they represent
31 and correspondence of or to elected officials in their official capacities), or other material regardless
32 of physical form or characteristics made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection
33 with the transaction of official business by any agency. For the purposes of this chapter, the
34 following records shall not be deemed public:

1 (A)(I)(a) All records relating to a client/attorney relationship and to a doctor/patient
2 relationship, including all medical information relating to an individual in any files.

3 (b) Personnel and other personal individually identifiable records otherwise deemed
4 confidential by federal or state law or regulation, or the disclosure of which would constitute a
5 clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 et seq.; provided,
6 however, with respect to employees, and employees of contractors and subcontractors working on
7 public works projects that are required to be listed as certified payrolls, the name, gross salary,
8 salary range, total cost of paid fringe benefits, gross amount received in overtime, and any other
9 remuneration in addition to salary, job title, job description, dates of employment and positions
10 held with the state, municipality, or public works contractor or subcontractor on public works
11 projects, employment contract, work location, and/or project, business telephone number, the city
12 or town of residence, and date of termination shall be public. For the purposes of this section
13 “remuneration” shall include any payments received by an employee as a result of termination, or
14 otherwise leaving employment, including, but not limited to, payments for accrued sick and/or
15 vacation time, severance pay, or compensation paid pursuant to a contract buy-out provision. For
16 purposes of this section, the city or town residence shall not be deemed public for peace officers,
17 as defined in § 12-7-21, and shall not be released.

18 (II) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, or any other provision of the general
19 laws to the contrary, the pension records of all persons who are either current or retired members
20 of any public retirement systems, as well as all persons who become members of those retirement
21 systems after June 17, 1991, shall be open for public inspection. “Pension records” as used in this
22 section, shall include all records containing information concerning pension and retirement benefits
23 of current and retired members of the retirement systems and future members of said systems,
24 including all records concerning retirement credits purchased and the ability of any member of the
25 retirement system to purchase retirement credits, but excluding all information regarding the
26 medical condition of any person and all information identifying the member’s designated
27 beneficiary or beneficiaries unless and until the member’s designated beneficiary or beneficiaries
28 have received or are receiving pension and/or retirement benefits through the retirement system.

29 (B) Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person, firm,
30 or corporation that is of a privileged or confidential nature.

31 (C) Child custody and adoption records, records of illegitimate births, and records of
32 juvenile proceedings before the family court.

33 (D) All records maintained by law enforcement agencies for criminal law enforcement and
34 all records relating to the detection and investigation of crime, including those maintained on any

1 individual or compiled in the course of a criminal investigation by any law enforcement agency.
2 Provided, however, such records shall not be deemed public only to the extent that the disclosure
3 of the records or information (a) Could reasonably be expected to interfere with investigations of
4 criminal activity or with enforcement proceedings; (b) Would deprive a person of a right to a fair
5 trial or an impartial adjudication; (c) Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted
6 invasion of personal privacy; (d) Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a
7 confidential source, including a state, local, or foreign agency or authority, or any private institution
8 that furnished information on a confidential basis, or the information furnished by a confidential
9 source; (e) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or
10 prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions; or
11 (f) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual. Records
12 relating to management and direction of a law enforcement agency and records or reports reflecting
13 the initial arrest of an adult and the charge or charges brought against an adult shall be public.

14 (E) Any records that would not be available by law or rule of court to an opposing party in
15 litigation.

16 (F) Scientific and technological secrets and the security plans of military and law
17 enforcement agencies, the disclosure of which would endanger the public welfare and security.

18 (G) Any records that disclose the identity of the contributor of a bona fide and lawful
19 charitable contribution to the public body whenever public anonymity has been requested of the
20 public body with respect to the contribution by the contributor.

21 (H) Reports and statements of strategy or negotiation involving labor negotiations or
22 collective bargaining.

23 (I) Reports and statements of strategy or negotiation with respect to the investment or
24 borrowing of public funds, until such time as those transactions are entered into.

25 (J) Any minutes of a meeting of a public body that are not required to be disclosed pursuant
26 to chapter 46 of title 42.

27 (K) Preliminary drafts, notes, impressions, memoranda, working papers, and work
28 products, including those involving research at state institutions of higher education on commercial,
29 scientific, artistic, technical, or scholarly issues, whether in electronic or other format; provided,
30 however, any documents submitted at a public meeting of a public body shall be deemed public.

31 (L) Test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data used to administer a licensing
32 examination, examination for employment or promotion, or academic examinations; provided,
33 however, that a person shall have the right to review the results of his or her examination.

34 (M) Correspondence of or to elected officials with or relating to those they represent and

1 correspondence of or to elected officials in their official capacities.

2 (N) The contents of real estate appraisals, engineering, or feasibility estimates and
3 evaluations made for or by an agency relative to the acquisition of property or to prospective public
4 supply and construction contracts, until such time as all of the property has been acquired or all
5 proceedings or transactions have been terminated or abandoned; provided the law of eminent
6 domain shall not be affected by this provision.

7 (O) All tax returns.

8 (P) All investigatory records of public bodies, with the exception of law enforcement
9 agencies, pertaining to possible violations of statute, rule, or regulation other than records of final
10 actions taken, provided that all records prior to formal notification of violations or noncompliance
11 shall not be deemed to be public.

12 (Q) Records of individual test scores on professional certification and licensing
13 examinations; provided, however, that a person shall have the right to review the results of his or
14 her examination.

15 (R) Requests for advisory opinions until such time as the public body issues its opinion.

16 (S) Records, reports, opinions, information, and statements required to be kept confidential
17 by federal law or regulation or state law or rule of court.

18 (T) Judicial bodies are included in the definition only in respect to their administrative
19 function provided that records kept pursuant to the provisions of chapter 16 of title 8 are exempt
20 from the operation of this chapter.

21 (U) Library records that, by themselves or when examined with other public records, would
22 reveal the identity of the library user requesting, checking out, or using any library materials.

23 (V) Printouts from TELE — TEXT devices used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing
24 or speech impaired.

25 (W) All records received by the insurance division of the department of business regulation
26 from other states, either directly or through the National Association of Insurance Commissioners,
27 if those records are accorded confidential treatment in that state. Nothing contained in this title or
28 any other provision of law shall prevent or be construed as prohibiting the commissioner of
29 insurance from disclosing otherwise confidential information to the insurance department of this
30 or any other state or country, at any time, so long as the agency or office receiving the records
31 agrees in writing to hold it confidential in a manner consistent with the laws of this state.

32 (X) Credit card account numbers in the possession of state or local government are
33 confidential and shall not be deemed public records.

34 (Y) Any documentary material, answers to written interrogatories, or oral testimony

1 provided under any subpoena issued under § 9-1.1-6.

2 (Z) Any individually identifiable evaluations of public school employees made pursuant to
3 state or federal law or regulation.

4 (AA) All documents prepared by school districts intended to be used by school districts in
5 protecting the safety of their students from potential and actual threats.

6 (BB) The list of teachers terminated for good and just cause maintained by the department
7 of education pursuant to § 16-13-9.

8 (CC) All documents, records and any records of proceedings generated pursuant to any
9 appeal brought under § 11-47-65, before a licensing authority, the department of attorney general
10 or the superior court.

11 SECTION 5. 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 -- CONCEALED CARRY REFORM

1 This act would allow the attorney general to enter in agreements with other states to
2 recognize a concealed handgun permit as valid. This act would authorize the State of Rhode Island
3 to recognize and honor a concealed weapon permit from out of state provided the license holder is
4 twenty-one (21) years of age or older, the reciprocal state or county provides a means of twenty
5 four (24) hours instantaneous verification. Further, any active duty law enforcement officers having
6 a government issued identification card would have the right to carry a concealed firearm within
7 the State of Rhode Island. Additionally, this act would define "suitable person" for purposes of
8 possessing and having a concealed carry pistol permit and would establish reasons for applying for
9 a carry permit for both in-state and out-of-state residents. This act would also set forth what
10 information is required on applications for carry permits, establish an appeal process when an
11 application is denied and provide that records relating to carry permits and appeals would not be a
12 public record.

13 This act would take effect upon passage.

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