

2024 -- S 2658

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS

Introduced By: Senators DeLuca, Tikoian, F. Lombardi, Raptakis, Burke, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: March 01, 2024

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 11-47-9 and 11-47-35.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47
2 entitled "Weapons" are 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~~ capitol police; Rhode Island state fire
7 marshal; chief deputy state fire marshals; deputy state fire marshals assigned to the bomb squad,
8 and those assigned to the investigation unit; Providence fire department arson investigators,
9 provided that the investigator receiving the permit is a graduate of a police-training academy;
10 correctional officers, chief inspector and inspectors within the office of inspections, within the
11 department of corrections; members of the city or town police force; capitol police investigators of
12 the department of attorney general appointed pursuant to § 42-9-8.1; the witness protection
13 coordinator for the witness protection review board as set forth in chapter 30 of title 12 and subject
14 to the minimum qualifications of § 42-9-8.1; automobile theft investigators of the Rhode Island
15 state police pursuant to § 31-50-1; railroad police while traveling to and from official assignments
16 or while on assignments; conservation officers; or other duly appointed law enforcement officers;
17 nor to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps of the United States, the National
18 Guard, 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) Persons exempted by the provisions of this section from the provisions of § 11-47-8
25 shall have the right to carry concealed firearms everywhere within this state; provided, that this
26 shall not be construed as giving the right to carry concealed firearms to a person transporting
27 firearms as merchandise or as household or business goods.

28 **11-47-35.1. Persons exempt from § 11-47-35.**

29 The provisions of § 11-47-35 shall not apply to full-time members of the state police, full-
30 time members of the ~~state marshal's office~~ [capitol police](#), full-time members of city or town police
31 departments, or ~~state marshals~~ [capitol police](#) or correctional officers or persons licensed under §
32 11-47-11.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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- 1 This act would replace state marshals with capitol police as to those law enforcement
- 2 officers being exempt from certain firearm restrictions.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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