

VERMONT
VT. STAT.

Title 13. Crimes and Criminal Procedure

Chapter 37. Explosives

1603. Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Destructive device" means any:

(A) explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb; or

(B) explosive, incendiary or poison gas grenade; or

(C) explosive, incendiary or poison gas rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces; or

(D) explosive, incendiary or poison gas missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce; or

(E) explosive, incendiary or poison gas mine; or

(F) device which consists of or includes a breakable container including a flammable liquid or compound, and a wick composed of any material which, when ignited, is capable of igniting the flammable liquid or compound, and can be carried or thrown by one individual acting alone; or

(G) device similar to those devices enumerated in paragraphs (1), (A)-(E) of this section.

A destructive device does not include a firearm or ammunition therefor.

(2) "Explosive" means dynamite, or any explosive compound of which nitroglycerin forms a part, or fulminate in bulk or dry condition, or blasting caps, or detonating fuses, or blasting powder or any other similar explosive. The term does not include a firearm or ammunition therefor or any components of ammunition for a firearm including primers, smokeless powder or black gunpowder.

(3) "Hoax device" means any device so designed, assembled, fabricated or manufactured as to convey the physical appearance of an explosive or incendiary bomb or the physical appearance of any of the devices enumerated in subdivisions (A)-(F) of division (1) of this section which is lacking an explosive or incendiary charge.

1604. Possession of destructive devices. A person who manufactures, possesses, stores or transports a destructive device or a hoax device shall be imprisoned for not more than 10 years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

1606. Possession and use of explosives. A person who possesses, purchases, stores, uses or transports an explosive without a license as provided in chapter 177, subchapter 2, division 2 of Title 20 shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years or fined not more than \$1,000.00 or both.

1607. Sale of explosives. A person who gives, transfers or sells an explosive to another who does not hold a license issued under chapter 177, subchapter 2, division 2 of Title 20 shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years or fined not more than \$1,000.00 or both.

1611. Exemptions.

(a) Nothing contained in this chapter shall apply to the armed forces of the United States, the duly authorized militia of the state, the fire or police departments of this state, or to the state or any subdivision thereof.

(b) Nothing contained in this chapter shall apply to destructive devices or explosives while being transported upon vessels, motor vehicles or railroad cars in conformity with the regulations adopted by the interstate commerce commission.

(c) The provisions of section 1604 of this title do not apply to a person who holds a valid license issued under Title 18 of the United States Code, chapter 44, to manufacture, possess, use, store or transport a destructive device provided he is complying with the terms of the license.

1612. Placing a hoax device. A person who willfully and maliciously puts, places or installs a hoax device in any building, house, facility of public transport, vehicular conveyance, ship, boat, aircraft, dam or reservoir for storing water shall be imprisoned for not more than 10 years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

Chapter 85. Weapons

4004. Possession of dangerous or deadly weapon in a school bus or school building or on school property.

(a) No person shall knowingly possess a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon while within a school building or on a school bus. A person who violates this section shall, for the first offense, be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both, and for a second or subsequent offense shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(b) No person shall knowingly possess a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon on any school property with the intent to injure another person. A person who violates this section shall, for the first offense, be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both, and for a second or subsequent offense shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to:

(1) A law enforcement officer while engaged in law enforcement duties.

(2) Possession and use of firearms or dangerous or deadly weapons if the board of school directors, or the superintendent or principal if delegated authority to do so by the board, authorizes possession or use for specific occasions or for instructional or other specific purposes.

(d) As used in this section:

(1) "School property" means any property owned by a school, including motor vehicles.

(2) "Owned by the school" means owned, leased, controlled or subcontracted by the school.

(3) "Dangerous or deadly weapon" has the meaning defined in section 4016 of this title.

(4) "Firearm" has the meaning defined in section 4016 of this title.

(5) "Law enforcement officer" has the meaning defined in section 4016 of this title.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not limit or restrict any prosecution for any other offense, including simple assault or aggravated assault.

4006. Record of firearm sales. All pawnbrokers and retail merchants dealing in firearms shall keep a record book in which they shall record the sale by them of all revolvers and pistols, and the purchase by them of all second-hand re-

volvers and pistols. Such record shall include the date of the transaction, the marks of identification of the firearm, including the manufacturer's name, the caliber, model and manufacturer's number of the firearm, the name, address, birthplace, occupation, age, height, weight and color of eyes and hair of the purchaser or seller. Such purchaser or seller shall sign his name to the record and the pawnbroker or merchant shall preserve such record book for six years after the date of last entry and shall permit all enforcement officers to inspect the same at all reasonable times. A person, partnership or corporation who violates a provision of this section shall be fined not more than \$100.00.

4007. Furnishing firearms to children. A person, firm or corporation, other than a parent or guardian, who sells or furnishes to a minor under the age of sixteen years a firearm or other dangerous weapon or ammunition for firearms shall be fined not more than \$50.00 nor less than \$10.00. This section shall not apply to an instructor or teacher who furnishes firearms to pupils for instruction and drill.

4008. Possession of firearms by children. A child under the age of sixteen years shall not, without the consent of his parents or guardian, have in his possession or control a pistol or revolver constructed or designed for the use of gunpowder or other explosive substance with leaden ball or shot. A child who violates a provision of this section shall be deemed a delinquent child under the provisions of chapter 55 of Title 33.

4010. Gun silencers. A person who manufactures, sells or uses or possesses with intent to sell or use, an appliance known as or used for a gun silencer shall be fined \$25.00 for each offense. The provisions of this section shall not prevent the use or possession of gun silencers for military purposes when so used or possessed under proper military authority and restriction.

4011. Aiming gun at another. Any person who shall intentionally point or aim any gun, pistol or other firearm at or towards another, except in self-defense or in the lawful discharge of official duty, shall be punished by fine not exceeding \$50.00. Any person who shall discharge any such firearm so intentionally aimed or pointed shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year or fined not more than \$100.00, or both.

4013. Zip guns; switchblade knives. A person who possesses, sells or offers for sale a weapon commonly known as a "zip" gun, or a weapon commonly known as a switchblade knife, the blade of which is three inches or more in length, shall be imprisoned not more than ninety days or fined not more than \$100.00, or both.

4014. Purchase of firearms in contiguous states. Residents of the state of Vermont may purchase rifles and shotguns in a state contiguous to the state of Vermont provided that such residents conform to the applicable provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968, and regulations thereunder, as administered by the United States Secretary of the Treasury, and provided further that such residents conform to the provisions of law applicable to such purchase in the

state of Vermont and in the contiguous state in which the purchase is made.

4015. Purchase of firearms by nonresidents. Residents of a state contiguous to the state of Vermont may purchase rifles and shotguns in the state of Vermont, provided that such residents conform to the applicable provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968, and regulations thereunder, as administered by the United States Secretary of the Treasury, and provided further that such residents conform to the provisions of law applicable to such purchase in the state of Vermont and in the state in which such persons reside.

Title 24. Municipal and County Governments

Part 2. Municipalities

Chapter 61. Regulatory Provisions; Police Power of Municipalities

Subchapter 11. Miscellaneous Regulatory Powers

2295. Authority of municipal and county governments to regulate firearms, ammunition, hunting, fishing and trapping. Except as

otherwise provided by law, no town, city or incorporated village, by ordinance, resolution or other enactment, shall directly regulate hunting, fishing and trapping or the possession, ownership, transportation, transfer, sale, purchase, carrying, licensing or registration of traps, firearms, ammunition or components of firearms or ammunition. This section shall not limit the powers conferred upon a town, city or incorporated village under section 2291(8) of this title. The provisions of this section shall supersede any inconsistent provisions of a municipal charter.

[Current through 2004 Legislative Session]

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Title 15.2. Counties, Cities and Towns

Chapter 9. General Powers of Local Governments

15.2-915. Control of firearms; applicability to authorities and local governmental agencies.

A. No locality shall adopt or enforce any ordinance, resolution or motion, as permitted by § 15.2-1425, and no agent of such locality shall take any administrative action, governing the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying, storage or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof other than those expressly authorized by statute. For purposes of this section, a statute that does not refer to firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, shall not be construed to provide express authorization.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit a locality from adopting workplace rules relating to terms and conditions of employment of the workforce. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 9.1-101 from acting within the scope of his duties.

The provisions of this section applicable to a locality shall also apply to any authority or to a local governmental entity, including a department or agency, but not including any local or regional jail or juvenile detention facility.

B. Any local ordinance, resolution or motion adopted prior to the effective date of this act governing the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, other than those expressly authorized by statute, is invalid.

15.2-915.2. Regulation of transportation of a loaded rifle or shotgun. The governing body of any county or city may by ordinance make it unlawful for any person to transport, possess or carry a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle in any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway within such locality. Any violation of such ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$100. Game wardens, sheriffs and all other law-enforcement officers shall enforce the provisions of this section. No ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall be enforceable unless the governing body adopting such ordinance so notifies the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries by registered mail prior to May 1 of the year in which such ordinance is to take effect.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to duly authorized law-enforcement officers or military personnel in the performance of their

lawful duties, nor to any person who reasonably believes that a loaded rifle or shotgun is necessary for his personal safety in the course of his employment or business.

15.2-915.3. Requiring fingerprinting for concealed handgun permit. Notwithstanding § 15.2-915, a county or city may by ordinance require any applicant for a concealed handgun permit to submit to fingerprinting for the purpose of obtaining the applicant's state or national criminal history record.

15.2-915.4. Counties, cities and towns authorized to regulate use of pneumatic guns.

A. A locality may prohibit, by ordinance, the shooting of pneumatic guns in any areas of the locality that are in the opinion of the governing body so heavily populated as to make such conduct dangerous to the inhabitants thereof, and may require supervision by a parent, guardian, or other adult supervisor approved by a parent or guardian of any minor below the age of 16 in all uses of pneumatic guns on private or public property. The ordinance may specify that minors above the age of 16 may, with the written consent of a parent or guardian, use a pneumatic gun at any place designated for such use by the local governing body or on private property with the consent of the owner. The ordinance may specify that any minor, whether permitted by a parent or guardian to use a pneumatic gun or not, shall be responsible for obeying all laws, regulations and restrictions governing such use. Any penalty for a pneumatic gun offense set forth in such an ordinance shall not exceed a Class 3 misdemeanor.

B. No such ordinance authorized by subsection A shall prohibit the use of pneumatic guns at facilities approved for shooting ranges or on other property where firearms may be discharged.

C. Training of minors in the use of pneumatic guns shall be done only under direct supervision of a parent, guardian, Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps instructor, or a certified instructor. Training of minors above the age of 16 may also be done without direct supervision if approved by the minor's instructor, with the permission of and under the responsibility of a parent or guardian, and in compliance with all requirements of this section. Ranges and instructors may be certified by the National Rifle Association, a state or federal agency that has developed a certification program, any service of the Department of Defense, or any person authorized by these authorities to certify ranges and instructors.

D. Commercial or private areas designated for use of pneumatic paintball guns may be established and operated for recreational use. Equip-

ment designed to protect the face and ears shall be provided to participants at such recreational areas, and signs must be posted to warn against entry into the paintball area by persons who are unprotected or unaware that paintball guns are in use.

E. As used in this section, "pneumatic gun" means any implement, designed as a gun, that will expel a BB or a pellet by action of pneumatic pressure. "Pneumatic gun" includes a paintball gun that expels by action of pneumatic pressure plastic balls filled with paint for the purpose of marking the point of impact.

Chapter 12. General Powers and Procedures of Counties

15.2-1206. Pistols and revolvers; license tax on dealers. The governing body of any county may impose a license tax of not more than twenty-five dollars on persons engaged in the business of selling pistols and revolvers to the public.

15.2-1207. Same; reports of sales. The governing body of any county may require sellers of pistols and revolvers to furnish the clerk of the circuit court of the county, within ten days after sale of any such weapon, with the name and address of the purchaser, the date of purchase, and the number, make and caliber of the weapon sold. The clerk shall keep a record of the reports.

15.2-1208. Same; in certain counties. Chapter 297 of the Acts of 1944, approved March 29, 1944, requiring permits to sell or purchase pistols or revolvers in any county having a density of population of more than 1,000 a square mile, is repealed. Any records or copies thereof that were created pursuant to this section that are in the custody of any county shall be destroyed no later than July 31, 2004. Upon destroying the records, the county shall certify to the circuit court that such destruction has been completed.

15.2-1209.1. Counties may regulate carrying of loaded firearms on public highways. The governing body of any county is hereby empowered to adopt ordinances making it unlawful for any person to carry or have in his possession while on any part of a public highway within such county a loaded firearm when such person is not authorized to hunt on the private property on both sides of the highway along which he is standing or walking; and to provide a penalty for violation of such ordinance not to exceed a fine of \$100. The provisions of this section shall not apply to persons carrying loaded firearms in moving vehicles, or to persons acting at the time in defense of persons or property.