

**TENNESSEE  
TENN. CODE**

**Title 39. Criminal Offenses**

**Chapter 14 Offenses Against Property  
Part 7 --Criminal Instruments**

**39-14-702. Possession of explosive components.**

(a) A person commits an offense who unlawfully possesses any component part of an explosive including, but not limited to, a fuse cap, detonator or wiring, with the intent to produce or manufacture an explosive device.

(b) A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Chapter 17. Offenses Against Public Health, Safety and Welfare**

**Part 13. Weapons**

**39-17-1301. Part Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires: ...

(2) "Crime of violence" includes any degree of murder, voluntary manslaughter, aggravated rape, rape, especially aggravated robbery, aggravated robbery, burglary, aggravated assault or aggravated kidnapping;

(3)(A) "Explosive weapon" means any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas:

- (i) Bomb;
- (ii) Grenade;
- (iii) Rocket;
- (iv) Mine; or
- (v) Shell, missile or projectile that is designed, made or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death or substantial property damage;

(B) "Explosive weapon" also means:

(i) Any breakable container which contains a flammable liquid with a flashpoint of one hundred fifty degrees (150°) Fahrenheit or less and has a wick or similar device capable of being ignited, other than a device which is commercially manufactured primarily for purposes of illumination; or

(ii) Any sealed device containing dry ice or other chemically reactive substances for the purposes of causing an explosion by a chemical reaction.

(4) "Firearm silencer" means any device designed, made or adapted to muffle the report of a firearm;

(5) "Hoax device" means any device that reasonably appears to be or is purported to be an explosive or incendiary device and is intended to cause alarm or reaction of any type by an official of a public safety agency or a volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies.

(6) "Immediate vicinity" refers to the area within the person's immediate control within which the person has ready access to the ammunition;

(9) "Machine gun" means any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two (2) shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger;

(10) "Restricted firearm ammunition" means any cartridge containing a bullet coated with a plastic substance with other than a lead or lead alloy core or a jacketed bullet with other than a

lead or lead alloy core or a cartridge of which the bullet itself is wholly composed of a metal or metal alloy other than lead. "Restricted firearm ammunition" does not include shotgun shells or solid plastic bullets;

(11) "Rifle" means any firearm designed, made or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire a projectile through a rifled bore by a single function of the trigger;

(12) "Short barrel" means a barrel length of less than sixteen inches (16") for a rifle and eighteen inches (18") for a shotgun, or an overall firearm length of less than twenty-six inches (26");

(13) "Shotgun" means any firearm designed, made or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth-bore barrel either a number of ball shot or a single projectile by a single function of the trigger;

(15) "Unloaded" means the rifle, shotgun or handgun does not have ammunition in the chamber, cylinder, clip or magazine, and no clip or magazine is in the immediate vicinity of the weapon.

**Notes:** Acts 2009, ch. 578, § 8, amended this section by adding the definitions of "adjudication as a mental defective or adjudicated as a mental defective", "judicial commitment to a mental institution", and "mental institution", effective January 1, 2010. Prior to January 1, 2010, the definitions of "adjudication as a mental defective or adjudicated as a mental defective", "judicial commitment to a mental institution", and "mental institution" are not in effect. On and after January 1, 2010, the definitions of "adjudication as a mental defective or adjudicated as a mental defective", "judicial commitment to a mental institution", and "mental institution" are in effect.

**39-17-1302. Prohibited weapons.**

(a) A person commits an offense who intentionally or knowingly possesses, manufactures, transports, repairs or sells:

- (1) An explosive or an explosive weapon;
- (2) A device principally designed, made or adapted for delivering or shooting an explosive weapon;
- (3) A machine gun;
- (4) A short-barrel rifle or shotgun;
- (5) A firearm silencer;
- (6) Hoax device;
- (7) A switchblade knife or knuckles; or
- (8) Any other implement for infliction of serious bodily injury or death which has no common lawful purpose.

(b) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the person's conduct:

(1) Was incident to the performance of official duty and pursuant to military regulations in the army, navy, air force, coast guard or marine service of the United States or the Tennessee national guard, or was incident to the performance of official duty in a governmental law enforcement agency or a penal institution;

(2) Was incident to engaging in a lawful commercial or business transaction with an organization identified in subdivision (b)(1);

(3) Was incident to using an explosive or an explosive weapon in a manner reasonably related to a lawful industrial or commercial enterprise;

(4) Was incident to using the weapon in a manner reasonably related to a lawful dramatic performance or scientific research;

(5) Was incident to displaying the weapon in a public museum or exhibition;

(6) Was licensed by the state of Tennessee as a manufacturer, importer or dealer in weapons; provided, that the manufacture, import, purchase, possession, sale or disposition of weapons is authorized and incident to carrying on the business for which licensed and is for scientific or research purposes or sale or disposition to the organization designated in subdivision (b)(1);

(7) Involved acquisition or possession of a sawed-off shotgun, sawed-off rifle, machine gun or firearm silencer which is validly registered to the person under federal law in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Records. A person who acquires or possesses a firearm registered as required by this subdivision shall retain proof of registration; or

(8) Involved the manufacture and sale of an automatic knife; provided, that the sale of such knife was limited to:

(A) Retail establishments that represent in writing under oath before a notary public that they only sell the knives to law enforcement officers, military personnel and emergency medical technicians;

(B) Law enforcement officers;

(C) Military personnel; or

(D) Emergency medical technicians.

(c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section which the person must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(1) The person's conduct was relative to dealing with the weapon solely as a curio, ornament or keepsake, and if the weapon is a type described in subdivisions (a)(1)-(5), that it was in a nonfunctioning condition and could not readily be made operable; or

(2) The possession was brief and occurred as a consequence of having found the weapon or taken it from an aggressor.

(d)(1) An offense under subdivision (a)(1) is a Class B felony.

(2) An offense under subdivisions (a)(2)-(5) is a class E felony.

(3) An offense under subdivision (a)(6) is a class C felony.

(4) An offense under subdivisions (a)(7)-(8) is a class A misdemeanor.

**39-17-1303. Unlawful sale, loan or gift of firearm.**

(a) A person commits an offense who:

(1) Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly sells, loans or makes a gift of a firearm or switchblade knife to a minor;

(2) Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly sells a firearm or ammunition for a firearm to a person who is intoxicated; or

(3) Intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence violates the provisions of § 39-17-1316.

(b) It is a defense to prosecution under subdivision (a)(1) that:

(1) A firearm was loaned or given to a minor for the purposes of hunting, trapping, fishing, camping, sport shooting or any other lawful sporting activity; and

(2) The person is not required to obtain a license under § 39-17-1316.

(c) For purposes of this section, "intoxicated" means substantial impairment of mental or physical capacity resulting from introduction of any substance into the body.

(d) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

#### **39-17-1304. Restrictions on firearm ammunition.**

(a) It is an offense for any person to possess, use or attempt to use restricted firearm ammunition while committing or attempting to commit a crime of violence. A violation of this section constitutes a separate and distinct felony.

(b) It is an offense for any person or corporation to manufacture, sell, offer for sale, display for sale or use in this state any ammunition cartridge, metallic or otherwise, containing a bullet with a hollow-nose cavity which is filled with an explosive material and designed to detonate upon impact; provided, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any state or federal military unit or personnel for use in the performance of its duties.

(c)(1) A violation of subsection (a) by possession of restricted firearm ammunition is a Class E felony.

(2) A violation of subsection (a) by use or attempted use of restricted firearm ammunition is a Class D felony.

(3) A violation of subsection (b) is a Class E felony.

#### **39-17-1307. Unlawful carrying or possession of a weapon.**

(a)(1) A person commits an offense who carries with the intent to go armed a firearm, a knife with a blade length exceeding four inches (4"), or a club.

(2)(A) The first violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class C misdemeanor, and, in addition to possible imprisonment as provided by law, may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

(B) A second or subsequent violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class B misdemeanor.

(C) A violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class A misdemeanor if the person's carrying of a handgun occurred at a place open to the public where one (1) or more persons were present.

(b)(1) A person commits an offense who possesses a firearm, as defined in Section 39-11-106, and:

(A) Has been convicted of a felony involving the use or attempted use of force, violence or a deadly weapon; or

(B) Has been convicted of a felony drug offense.

(2) An offense under subdivision (b)(1) is a Class E felony.

(c)(1) A person commits an offense who possesses a handgun and has been convicted of a felony.

(2) An offense under subdivision (c)(1) is a Class E felony.

(d)(1) A person commits an offense who possesses a deadly weapon other than a firearm with the intent to employ it during the commission of, attempt to commit, or escape

from a dangerous offense as defined in § 39-17-1324.

(2) A person commits an offense who possesses any deadly weapon with the intent to employ it during the commission of, attempt to commit, or escape from any offense not defined as a dangerous offense by § 39-17-1324.

(3) A violation of this subsection (d) is a Class E felony.

**(e) It is an exception to the application of this section that a person authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351 is transporting a rifle or shotgun in or on a privately owned motor vehicle and the rifle or shotgun does not have ammunition in the chamber. However the person does not violate this section by inserting ammunition into the chamber if the ammunition is inserted for purposes of justifiable self-defense pursuant to § 39-11-611 or § 39-11-612.**

(f)(1) A person commits an offense who possesses a firearm, as defined in Section 39-11-106(a), and:

(A) Has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 921, and is still subject to the disabilities of such a conviction;

(B) Is, at the time of the possession, subject to an order of protection that fully complies with the provisions of 18 U.S.C. Section 922(g)(8); or

(C) Is prohibited from possessing a firearm under any other provision of state or federal law.

(2) If the person is licensed as a federal firearms dealer or a responsible party under a federal firearms license, the determination of whether such an individual "possesses" firearms that constitute the business inventory under such federal license shall be determined based upon the applicable federal statutes or the rules, regulations and official letters, rulings and publications of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

(3) For purposes of this section, a person does not possess a firearm, including, but not limited to, firearms registered under the National Firearms Act, if the firearm is in a safe or similar container which is securely locked and to which the respondent does not have the combination, keys or other means of normal access.

(4) A violation of subdivision (e)(1) is a Class A misdemeanor and each violation constitutes a separate offense.

(5) If a violation of subdivision (e)(1) also constitutes a violation of Section 36-3-625(h) or Section 39-13-113(h), the respondent may be charged and convicted under any or all such sections.

#### **39-17-1308. Defenses to unlawful possession or carrying of a weapon.**

(a) It is a defense to the application of § 39-17-1307 if the possession or carrying was:

(1) Of an unloaded rifle, shotgun or handgun not concealed on or about the person and the ammunition for the weapon was not in the immediate vicinity of the person or weapon;

(2) By a person authorized to possess or carry a firearm pursuant to § 39-17-1315 or § 39-17-1351;

(3) At the person's:

(A) Place of residence;

(B) Place of business; or

(C) Premises;

(4) Incident to lawful hunting, trapping, fishing, camping, sport shooting or other lawful activity;

(5) By a person possessing a rifle or shotgun while engaged in the lawful protection of livestock from predatory animals;

(6) By a Tennessee valley authority officer who holds a valid commission from the commissioner of safety pursuant to this part while such officer is in the performance of the officer's official duties;

(7) By a state, county or municipal judge or any federal judge or any federal or county magistrate;

(10) By any out-of-state, full-time, commissioned law enforcement officer who holds a valid commission card from the appropriate out-of-state law enforcement agency and a photo identification; provided, that if no such valid commission card and photo identification are retained, then it shall be unlawful for such officer to carry firearms in this state and the provisions of this section shall not apply. The defense provided by this subdivision (a)(10) shall only be applicable if the state where the out-of-state officer is employed has entered into a reciprocity agreement with this state that allows a full-time, commissioned law enforcement officer in Tennessee to lawfully carry or possess a weapon in such other state.

(b) The defenses described in this section are not available to persons described in § 39-17-1307(b)(1).

#### **39-17-1309. Carrying weapons on school property.**

(a) As used in this section, "weapon of like kind" includes razors and razor blades, except those used solely for personal shaving, and any sharp pointed or edged instrument, except unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance.

(b)(1) It is an offense for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, with the intent to go armed, any firearm, explosive, explosive weapon, bowie knife, hawk bill knife, ice pick, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, knuckles or any other weapon of like kind, not used solely for instructional or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, in any public or private school building or bus, on any public or private school campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field or any other property owned, used or operated by any board of education, school, college or university board of trustees, regents or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution.

(2) A violation of this subsection (b) is a Class E felony.

(c)(1) It is an offense for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any firearm, not used solely for instructional or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, in any public or private school building or bus, on any public or private school campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field or any other property owned, used or operated by any board of education, school, college or university board of trustees, regents or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution. It is not an offense under this subsection (c) for a nonstudent adult to possess a firearm, if the firearm is contained within a private vehicle operated by the adult and is not handled by the adult, or by any other person acting with the expressed or implied consent of such adult, while such vehicle is on school property.

(2) A violation of this subsection (c) is a Class B misdemeanor.

(d)(1) Each chief administrator of a public or private school shall display in prominent locations about the school a sign, at least six inches (6") high and fourteen inches (14") wide, stating: FELONY. STATE LAW PRESCRIBES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF SIX (6) YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE NOT TO EXCEED THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) FOR CARRYING WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

(2) As used in this subsection (d), "prominent locations about a school" includes, but is not limited to, sports arenas, gymnasiums, stadiums and cafeterias.

(e) The provisions of subsections (b) and (c) do not apply to the following persons:

(1) Persons employed in the army, air force, navy, coast guard or marine service of the United States or any member of the Tennessee national guard when in discharge of their official duties and acting under orders requiring them to carry arms or weapons;

(2) Civil officers of the United States in the discharge of their official duties;

(3) Officers and soldiers of the militia and the national guard when called into actual service;

(4) Officers of the state, or of any county, city or town, charged with the enforcement of the laws of the state, when in the discharge of their official duties;

(5) Any pupils who are members of the reserve officers training corps or pupils enrolled in a course of instruction or members of a club or team, and who are required to carry arms or weapons in the discharge of their official class or team duties;

(6) Any private police employed by the administration or board of trustees of any public or private institution of higher education in the discharge of their duties; and

(7) Any registered security officer/guard who meets the requirements of title 62, chapter 35, and who is discharging such officer's official duties.

**39-17-1310. Affirmative defense to carrying weapons on school property.** It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under § 39-17-1309 (a)-(d) that the person's behavior was in strict compliance with the requirements of one (1) of the following classifications:

(1) A person hunting during the lawful hunting season on lands owned by any public or private educational institution and designated as open to hunting by the administrator of the educational institution;

(2) A person possessing unloaded hunting weapons while transverseing the grounds of any public or private educational institution for the purpose of gaining access to public or private lands open to hunting with the intent to hunt on the public or private lands unless the lands of the educational institution are posted prohibiting such entry;

(3) A person possessing guns or knives when conducting or attending "gun and knife shows" and the program has been approved by the administrator of the educational institution; or

(4) A person entering the property for the sole purpose of delivering or picking up passengers and who does not remove, utilize or allow to be removed or utilized any weapon from the vehicle.

**39-17-1312. Inaction by persons eighteen (18) years of age or older, including parents**

**or guardians, knowing a minor or student illegally possessing a firearm.**

(a) It is an offense if a person eighteen (18) years of age or older, including a parent or other legal guardian, knows that a minor or student is in illegal possession of a firearm in or upon the premises of a public or private school, in or on such school's athletic stadium or other facility or building where school sponsored athletic events are conducted, or public park, playground or civic center, and the person, parent or guardian fails to prevent the possession or fails to report it to the appropriate school or law enforcement officials.

(b) A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**39-17-1314. Local regulation of firearms and ammunition preempted by state regulation - Actions against firearms or ammunition manufacturers, trade associations or dealers.**

(a) No city, county, or metropolitan government shall occupy any part of the field of regulation of the transfer, ownership, possession or transportation of firearms, ammunition or components of firearms or combinations thereof; provided, that the provisions of this section shall be prospective only and shall not affect the validity of any ordinance or resolution lawfully enacted before April 8, 1986.

(b) The general assembly declares that the lawful design, marketing, manufacture and sale of firearms and ammunition to the public are not unreasonably dangerous activities and do not constitute a nuisance per se.

**39-17-1315. Written directive and permit to carry handguns.**

(a)(1) Any law enforcement officer, police officer, bonded and sworn deputy sheriff, director, commissioner, county magistrate or retired law enforcement officer who is bonded and who, at the time of receiving the written directive, has successfully completed and, except for a law enforcement officer who has retired in good standing as certified by the chief law enforcement officer of the organization from which the officer retired, continues to successfully complete on an annual basis a firearm training program of at least eight (8) hours duration, director or full-time employee of the Tennessee emergency management agency in the performance of the director's or employee's duty, any duly authorized representative or full-time employee of the board of probation and parole who has been specifically designated by the board to execute warrants issued pursuant to § 40-28-121 or § 40-35-311 or to perform such other duties as specifically designated by the board, or any other officer or person authorized to carry handguns by this, or any other law of this state, may carry handguns at all times pursuant to a written directive by the executive supervisor of the organization to which the person is or was attached or employed, regardless of the person's regular duty hours or assignments; however, a copy of the written directive shall be retained as a portion of the records of the particular law enforcement agency that shall issue the directive. Nothing in this subdivision (a)(1) shall prevent federal officers from carrying firearms as prescribed by federal law.

(2) Any duly elected and sworn constable in any county having a population of not less than eleven thousand one hundred (11,100) nor more than eleven thousand two hundred (11,200) ac-

ording to the 1970 federal census or any subsequent federal census, and being a county in which such constables retain law enforcement powers and duties under the provisions of §§ 8-10-108, 40-6-210, 55-8-152, 57-5-202 and 57-9-101, are authorized to and may carry handguns at all times and may equip their vehicles with blue and red lights and sirens. The sheriff of such county shall issue a written directive or permit authorizing such constables to carry a handgun; provided, that each such constable has completed the same eight-hour annual firearm training program as is required by this subsection (a).

(3) The county commission may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, require any such constable to have in effect a liability policy or a corporate surety bond in an amount of not less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

(b)(1) An individual, corporation or business entity is authorized to prohibit the possession of weapons by employees otherwise authorized by this subsection (b) on premises owned, operated or managed by such individual, corporation or business entity. Notice of such prohibition thereunder shall be posted or otherwise noticed to all affected employees.

(2) An individual, corporation, business entity or governmental entity or agent thereof is authorized to prohibit possession of weapons by any person otherwise authorized by this subsection (b), at meetings conducted by, or on premises owned, operated, managed or under control of such individual, corporation, business entity or governmental entity. Notice of such prohibition shall be posted or announced.

**39-17-1316. Sales of dangerous weapons - Certification of purchaser - Exceptions - Licensing of dealers - Definitions.**

(a)(1) Any person appropriately licensed by the federal government may stock and sell firearms to persons desiring them; however, sales to persons who have been convicted of the offense of stalking as prohibited by § 39-17-315, who are addicted to alcohol, and who are ineligible to receive them under 18 U.S.C. § 922 are prohibited. For purposes of this subdivision (a)(1), the offense of violation of a protective order as prohibited by § 39-13-113 shall be considered a "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" for purposes of 18 U.S.C. sec. 921.

(2) The provisions of this subsection (a) prohibiting the sale of a firearm to a person convicted of a felony shall not apply if:

(A) The person was pardoned for the offense;

(B) The conviction has been expunged or set aside; or

(C) The person's civil rights have been restored pursuant to title 40, chapter 29; and

(D) The person is not prohibited from possessing a firearm by the provisions of § 39-17-1307.

(b)(1) As used in this section, "firearm" has the meaning as defined in § 39-11-106, including handguns, long guns, and all other weapons which meet the definition except "antique firearms" as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921.

(2) As used in this section, "gun dealer" means a person engaged in the business, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, of selling, leasing, or otherwise transferring a firearm, whether the person is a retail dealer, pawnbroker, or otherwise.

(c) Except with respect to transactions between persons licensed as dealers under 18 U.S.C. Section 923, a gun dealer shall comply

with the following before a firearm is delivered to a purchaser:

(1) The purchaser shall present to the dealer current identification meeting the requirements of subsection (f);

(2) The gun dealer shall complete a firearms transaction record as required by 18 U.S.C. Sections 921 -929, and obtain the signature of the purchaser on the record;

(3) The gun dealer shall request by means designated by the bureau that the Tennessee bureau of investigation conduct a criminal history record check on the purchaser and shall provide the following information to the bureau:

(A) The federal firearms license number of the gun dealer;

(B) The business name of the gun dealer;

(C) The place of transfer;

(D) The name of the person making the transfer;

(E) The make, model, caliber and manufacturer's number of the firearm being transferred;

(F) The name, gender, race, and date of birth of the purchaser;

(G) The social security number of the purchaser, if one has been assigned; and

(H) The type, issuer and identification number of the identification presented by the purchaser; and

(4) The gun dealer shall receive a unique approval number for the transfer from the bureau and record the approval number on the firearms transaction record.

(d) Upon receipt of a request of the gun dealer for a criminal history record check, the Tennessee bureau of investigation shall immediately, during the gun dealer's telephone call or by return call:

(1) Determine, from criminal records and other information available to it, whether the purchaser is disqualified under the provisions of subdivision (a)(1) from completing the purchase; and

(2) Notify the dealer when a purchaser is disqualified from completing the transfer or provide the dealer with a unique approval number indicating that the purchaser is qualified to complete the transfer.

(e)(1) The Tennessee bureau of investigation may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed ten dollars (\$10.00), for conducting background checks and other costs incurred under the provisions of this section, and shall be empowered to bill gun dealers for checks run.

(f)(1) Identification required of the purchaser under subsection (c) shall include one (1) piece of current, valid identification bearing a photograph and the date of birth of the purchaser that:

(A) Is issued under the authority of the United States government, a state, a political subdivision of a state, a foreign government, a political subdivision of a foreign government, an international governmental organization or an international quasi-governmental organization; and

(B) Is intended to be used for identification of an individual or is commonly accepted for the purpose of identification of an individual.

(2) If the identification presented by the purchaser under subdivision (f)(1)(A) does not include the current address of the purchaser, the purchaser shall present a second piece of current identification that contains the current address of the purchaser.

(g) The Tennessee bureau of investigation may require that the dealer verify the identifica-

tion of the purchaser if that identity is in question by sending the thumbprints of the purchaser to the bureau.

(h) The Tennessee bureau of investigation shall establish a telephone number that shall be operational seven (7) days a week between the hours of eight o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock p.m. Central Standard Time (8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. (CST)), except Christmas Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Independence Day, for the purpose of responding to inquiries from dealers for a criminal history record check under this section.

(i) No public employee, official or agency shall be held criminally or civilly liable for performing the investigations required by this section; provided the employee, official or agency acts in good faith and without malice.

(j) Upon the determination that receipt of a firearm by a particular individual would not violate this section, and after the issuance of a unique identifying number for the transaction, the Tennessee bureau of investigation shall destroy all records (except the unique identifying number and the date that it was assigned) associating a particular individual with a particular purchase of firearms.

(k) A law enforcement agency may inspect the records of a gun dealer relating to transfers of firearms in the course of a reasonable inquiry during a criminal investigation or under the authority of a properly authorized subpoena or search warrant.

(l) The Tennessee bureau of investigation shall publish the firearms transaction thumbprint form and shall furnish the form to gun dealers on application at cost.

**NOTE: (l) is deleted effective July 1, 2009.**

(m)(1) The background check does not apply to transactions between licensed importers, licensed manufacturers, licensed dealers, or licensed collectors who meet the requirements of subsection (b) and certify prior to the transaction the legal and licensed status of both parties. The burden shall fall upon the transferor to determine the legality of the transaction in progress.

(2) The background check does not apply to transactions or transfers between a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer and a bona fide law enforcement agency or such agency's personnel. However, all other provisions and requirements of subsection (b) must be observed. The burden of proof of the legality of the transactions or transfers shall rest upon the transferor.

(3) The background check does not apply to any person eligible to purchase a firearm as set out in this section who wishes to make an occasional sale of a used or second-hand firearm legally purchased by the seller.

(n) The director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation is hereby authorized to make and issue all rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

(o) In addition to the other grounds for denial, the bureau shall deny the transfer of a firearm if the background check reveals information indicating that the purchaser has been charged with a crime for which the purchaser, if convicted, would be prohibited under state or federal law from purchasing, receiving, or possessing a firearm; and, either there has been no final disposition of the case, or the final disposition is not noted.

(p) Upon receipt of the criminal history challenge form indicating a purchaser's request for review of the denial, the bureau shall proceed

with efforts to obtain the final disposition information. The purchaser may attempt to assist the bureau in obtaining the final disposition information. If neither the purchaser nor the bureau is able to obtain the final disposition information within fifteen (15) calendar days of the bureau's receipt of the criminal history challenge form, the bureau shall immediately notify the federal firearms licensee that the transaction that was initially denied is now a "conditional proceed". A "conditional proceed" means that the federal firearms licensee may lawfully transfer the firearm to the purchaser.

(q) In any case in which the transfer has been denied pursuant to subsection (o), the inability of the bureau to obtain the final disposition of a case shall not constitute the basis for the continued denial of the transfer as long as the bureau receives written notice, signed and verified by the clerk of the court or the clerk's designee, that indicates that no final disposition information is available. Upon receipt of such letter by the bureau, the bureau shall immediately reverse the denial.

**Notes:** Section (r) below shall be known and may be cited as the "Coach Willard Ross Act of 2009."

(r)(1) It is an offense for a person to purchase or attempt to purchase a firearm knowing that such person is prohibited by state or federal law from, owning, possessing or purchasing a firearm.

(2) It is an offense to sell or offer to sell a firearm to a person knowing that such person is prohibited by state or federal law from, owning, possessing or purchasing a firearm.

(3) A violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Notes:** Acts 2009, ch. 578, § 9, amended subdivision (a)(1), effective January 1, 2010. Prior to January 1, 2010, subsection (a)(1) reads as set out above.

On and after January 1, 2010, subsection (a)(1) reads as: (a) [Amended effective January 1, 2010. See the Compiler's Notes.] (1) Any person appropriately licensed by the federal government may stock and sell firearms to persons desiring firearms; however, sales to persons who have been convicted of the offense of stalking, as prohibited by § 39-17-315, who are addicted to alcohol, who are ineligible to receive firearms under 18 U.S.C. § 922, or who have been judicially committed to a mental institution pursuant to title 33 or adjudicated as a mental defective are prohibited. For purposes of this subdivision (a)(1), the offense of violation of a protective order as prohibited by § 39-13-113 shall be considered a "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" for purposes of 18 U.S.C. § 921.

**39-17-1317. Confiscation and disposition of confiscated weapons.**

(a) Any weapon, except those covered by subsection (h), that is possessed, used or sold in violation of the law shall be confiscated by a law enforcement officer and declared to be contraband by a court of record exercising criminal jurisdiction. The sheriff or chief of police for the jurisdiction where the weapon was confiscated may petition the court for permission to dispose of the weapon in accordance with this section. If the weapon was confiscated by a judicial district drug task force, the director of the task force where the weapon was confiscated may petition the court for disposal of the weapon in accordance with this section. If the weapon

was confiscated by the department of safety, the commissioner of safety may petition the court for disposal of the weapon in accordance with this section. If the weapon was confiscated by the Tennessee bureau of investigation, the director may petition the court for disposal of the weapon in accordance with this section.

(b) Any weapon declared contraband shall be sold in a public sale, destroyed or used for legitimate law enforcement purposes, at the discretion of the court, by written order.

(c) If the weapon was confiscated by a sheriff, other local law enforcement agency or a judicial district drug task force and the court orders the weapon to be sold:

(1) It shall be sold at a public auction not later than six (6) months from the date of the court order. The sale shall be conducted by the sheriff of the county or the chief of police of the municipality in which it was seized;

(2) The proceeds from the sale shall go into the county or municipal general fund, unless the weapon was confiscated by a judicial district drug task force, in which case the funds are deposited for the benefit of the task force;

(3) The sale shall be advertised in a daily or weekly newspaper circulated within the county. The advertisement shall run for not less than three (3) editions and not less than thirty (30) days prior to the sale; and

(4) If required by federal or state law, the sale can be conducted under contract with a licensed firearm dealer, whose commission shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the gross sales price. The dealer shall not hold an elective or appointed job with the federal, state, county or city government in this state during any stage of the sales contract.

(d) If the weapon was confiscated by the department of safety or the Tennessee bureau of investigation and the court orders it to be sold, it shall be turned over to the department of general services, which shall sell the weapon and dispose of the proceeds of the sale in the same manner as it currently does for other confiscated weapons.

(e) If the court orders the weapon to be destroyed, the commissioner of safety or the director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation, the sheriff, chief of police or the director of the seizing judicial district drug task force shall completely destroy or cause to be destroyed the weapon by cutting, crushing or melting it within ninety (90) days of receiving the destruction order.

(f) If the court orders the weapon to be retained and used for legitimate law enforcement purposes:

(1) Title to the weapon shall be placed in the law enforcement agency or judicial district drug task force retaining the weapon; and

(2) When the weapon is no longer needed for legitimate law enforcement purposes, it shall be sold or destroyed in accordance with this part.

(g) If the weapon is sold or destroyed, the commissioner of safety or the director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation, the sheriff, chief of police or director of the judicial district drug task force shall file an affidavit, as follows, with the court issuing the sale or destruction order:

(1) The affidavit shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the sale or destruction;

(2) The affidavit shall identify the weapon, including any serial number, and shall state the time, date and circumstances of the sale or

destruction;

(3) If the weapon has been destroyed, the affidavit shall list the persons who destroyed the weapon and the persons who witnessed the destruction; and

(4) If the weapon has been sold, the affidavit shall list the name and address of the purchaser and the price paid for the weapon.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, no weapon shall be sold, destroyed or retained for law enforcement use in the following circumstances:

(1) A weapon that may be evidence in an official proceeding shall be retained or otherwise preserved in accordance with the rules or practices regulating the preservation of evidence. The weapon shall be sold, destroyed or retained for legitimate law enforcement purposes not less than sixty (60) days nor more than one hundred eighty (180) days after the last legal proceeding involving the weapon; or

(2) Any weapon that has been stolen or borrowed from its owner, and the owner was not involved in the offense for which the weapon was confiscated, shall be returned to the owner if permitted by law.

(i) No weapon seized by law enforcement officials or judicial district drug task force members shall be used for any personal or law enforcement purposes, sold or destroyed except in accordance with this section.

(j) A violation of this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

(k) Nothing in this section shall authorize the purchase of any weapon, the possession of which is otherwise prohibited by law.

(l) The commissioner of safety, the director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation, the executive director of the Tennessee alcoholic beverage commission, the executive head of any municipal or county law enforcement agency or the director of a judicial district drug task force may petition the criminal court or the court in the official's county having criminal jurisdiction for permission to exchange firearms that have previously been properly titled, as specified by this section, to the law enforcement agency or the drug task force for other firearms suitable for use by the law enforcement agency or drug task force. This exchange of firearms is permitted only between the department of safety, the director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation, the executive director of the Tennessee alcoholic beverage commission, a municipal or county law enforcement agency or a judicial district drug task force and a licensed and qualified law enforcement firearms dealer.

#### **39-17-1318. New serial numbers for confiscated firearms.**

(a) If any firearm confiscated and adjudicated as contraband pursuant to this part or any other provision of law could be sold at public auction or retained by a law enforcement agency for law enforcement as provided in § 39-17-1317, but for the fact that the serial number of the firearm has been defaced or destroyed, the commissioner of safety or the sheriff or chief of police, as appropriate, of the county in which the firearm was confiscated may send the firearm to the director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation. The director shall assign the firearm a new serial number, permanently affix the number to the firearm, record the number in the bureau's computer system, and send the firearm back to the commissioner of safety, the

sheriff or chief of police for disposition in accordance with this part.

(b) If any firearm assigned a new serial number pursuant to subsection (a) is later sold at public auction, ten percent (10%) of the proceeds of the sale shall be returned to the general fund of the state to defray the costs incurred by the director in administering this section.

#### **39-17-1319. Handgun possession prohibited - Exceptions.**

(a) As used in this section and § 39-17-1320, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Handgun" means a pistol, revolver, or other firearm of any description, loaded or unloaded, from which any shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged, the length of the barrel of which, not including any revolving, detachable, or magazine breech, does not exceed twelve inches (12"); and

(2) "Juvenile" means any person less than eighteen (18) years of age.

(b) Except as provided in this section, it is an offense for a juvenile to knowingly possess a handgun.

(c)(1) Illegal possession of a handgun by a juvenile is a delinquent act and, in addition to any other disposition authorized by law, such juvenile may be required to perform not more than one hundred (100) hours of community service work to be specified by the judge, and such juvenile's driving privileges shall be suspended for a period of one (1) year in accordance with the procedure set out in title 55, chapter 10, part 7.

(2) A second or subsequent violation of this section is a delinquent act and, in addition to any other disposition authorized by law, such juvenile may be required to perform not less than one hundred (100) nor more than two hundred (200) hours of community service work to be specified by the judge, and such juvenile's driving privileges shall be suspended for a period of two (2) years in accordance with the procedure set out in title 55, chapter 10, part 7.

(3) Any handgun illegally possessed in violation of this section shall be confiscated and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of § 39-17-1317.

(d)(1) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the juvenile is:

(A) In attendance at a hunter's safety course or a firearms safety course;

(B) Engaging in practice in the use of a firearm or target shooting at an established range authorized by the governing body of the jurisdiction in which such range is located or any other area where the discharge of a firearm is not prohibited;

(C) Engaging in an organized competition involving the use of a firearm, or participating in or practicing for a performance by an organized group which is exempt from federal income taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)), as amended, and which uses firearms as part of such performance;

(D) Hunting or trapping pursuant to a valid license issued to such juvenile pursuant to title 70;

(E) Accompanied by such juvenile's parent or guardian and is being instructed by such adult or guardian in the use of the handgun possessed by the juvenile;

(F) On real property which is under the control of an adult and has the permission of that adult

and the juvenile's parent or legal guardian to possess a handgun;

(G) Traveling to or from any activity described in subsection (d)(1) with an unloaded gun; or

(H) At the juvenile's residence and with the permission of the juvenile's parent or legal guardian, possesses a handgun and is justified in using physical force or deadly force.

(2) For purposes of subsection (d)(1)(G), a handgun is "unloaded" if:

(A) There is not a cartridge in the chamber of the handgun;

(B) There is not a cartridge in the cylinder of the handgun if the handgun is a revolver; or

(C) The handgun, and the ammunition for such handgun, are not carried on the person of a juvenile or are not in such close proximity to such juvenile that the juvenile could readily gain access to the handgun and the ammunition and load the handgun.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part to the contrary, the provisions of this section shall govern a juvenile who possesses a handgun.

### **39-17-1320. Providing handguns to juveniles - Penalties.**

(a) It is an offense for a person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly to provide a handgun with or without remuneration to any person that the person providing the handgun knows or has reason to believe is a juvenile in violation of § 39-17-1319.

(b) It is an offense for a parent or guardian intentionally, knowingly or recklessly to provide a handgun to a juvenile or permit a juvenile to possess a handgun, if such parent or guardian knows of a substantial risk that such juvenile will use a handgun to commit a felony.

(c) Unlawfully providing or permitting a juvenile to possess a handgun in violation of subsection (a) is a Class A misdemeanor and in violation of subsection (b) is a Class D felony.

### **39-17-1321. Possession of handgun while under influence - Penalty.**

(a) Notwithstanding whether a person has a permit issued pursuant to § 39-17-1315 or § 39-17-1351, it is an offense for a person to possess a handgun while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance.

(b) A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

### **39-17-1350. Law enforcement officers permitted to carry firearms at all times.**

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any law enforcement officer may carry firearms at all times and in all places within Tennessee, on-duty or off-duty, regardless of the officer's regular duty hours or assignments, except as provided by subsection (c), federal law, lawful orders of court or the written directives of the executive supervisor of the employing agency.

(b) The authority conferred by this section is expressly intended to and shall supersede restrictions placed upon law enforcement officers' authority to carry firearms by other sections within this part.

(c) The authority conferred by this section shall not extend to a law enforcement officer:

(1) Who is not engaged in the actual discharge of official duties as a law enforcement officer and carries a firearm onto school grounds or inside a school building during regular school hours unless the officer immediately informs the principal that the officer will be present on school grounds or inside the school building and in

possession of a firearm. If the principal is unavailable, the notice may be given to an appropriate administrative staff person in the principal's office;

(2) Who is consuming beer or an alcoholic beverage or who is under the influence of beer, an alcoholic beverage, or a controlled substance; or

(3) [Deleted by 2009 amendment.]

(4) Who is not engaged in the actual discharge of official duties as a law enforcement officer while attending a judicial proceeding.

(d) For purposes of this section, "law enforcement officer" means a person who is a full-time employee of the state in a position authorized by the laws of this state to carry a firearm and to make arrests for violations of some or all of the laws of this state, or a full-time police officer who has been certified by the peace officer standards and training commission, or a vested correctional officer employed by the department of correction.

(e) In counties having a population of not less than thirty thousand two hundred (30,200) nor more than thirty thousand four hundred seventy-five (30,475) or not less than one hundred eighteen thousand four hundred (118,400) nor more than one hundred eighteen thousand seven hundred (118,700), according to the 1990 federal census or any subsequent federal census, the authority conferred by this section shall only apply to law enforcement officers who are law enforcement officers for those counties or law enforcement officers for municipalities located therein.

(f)(1) The secretary of state shall, in consultation with the commissioner of the department of correction, design and issue to each requesting correction officer who is vested and employed by the department of correction, a state identification card certifying that the officer is authorized to carry a firearm pursuant to this section.

(2) Any corrections officer desiring an identification card shall notify the secretary of state and shall provide the officer's full name and residential address. Upon receipt of the request, the secretary of state shall notify the commissioner of correction of the request. The commissioner of correction shall verify to the secretary of state whether the requesting officer is vested and employed by the department of correction and shall so certify in a letter to be maintained by the secretary.

(3) If the secretary of state receives certification that a requesting officer is vested and employed by the department, the secretary shall issue the officer an identification card so certifying. The card shall be valid for as long as the officer remains vested and in the employment of the department of correction.

(4) A corrections officer issued a card pursuant to this subsection (f) shall carry the card at all times the officer is carrying a firearm. The card shall be sufficient proof that the corrections officer is authorized to carry a firearm pursuant to this section.

(5) If a vested corrections officer employed by the department resigns, is terminated, or is otherwise no longer employed by the department, the commissioner shall, within ten (10) days, so notify the secretary of state. Upon receiving the notice, the secretary of state shall revoke the identification card and send a letter of revocation to the corrections officer at the officer's last known address.

(6)(A) A person who is no longer a vested corrections officer employed by the department of correction but who still has an identification card issued by the secretary of state shall have ten (10) days from receipt of the letter of revocation from the secretary of state to return the card to the secretary.

(B) It is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by fine only of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a person to knowingly fail to return an identification card as required by subdivision (f)(6)(A).

### **39-17-1351. Handgun carry permits.**

(a) The citizens of this state have a right to keep and bear arms for their common defense; but the general assembly has the power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms with a view to prevent crime.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (r), any resident of Tennessee who is a United States citizen or permanent lawful resident, as defined by § 55-50-102(30), who has reached twenty-one (21) years of age, may apply to the department of safety for a handgun carry permit. If the applicant is not prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm in this state pursuant to § 39-17-1316 or § 39-17-1307(b), 18 U.S.C. § 922(g), or any other state or federal law, and the applicant otherwise meets all of the requirements of this section, the department shall issue a permit to the applicant.

(c) The application for a permit shall be on a standard form developed by the department. The application shall clearly state in bold face type directly above the signature line that an applicant who, with intent to deceive, makes any false statement on such application commits the felony offense of perjury pursuant to § 39-16-702. The following are eligibility requirements for obtaining a handgun carry permit and the application shall require the applicant to disclose and confirm compliance with, under oath, the following information concerning the applicant and the eligibility requirements:

(1) Full legal name and any aliases;  
(2) Addresses for the last five (5) years;  
(3) Date of birth;  
(4) Social security number;  
(5) Physical description (height, weight, race, sex, hair color and eye color);

(6) That the applicant has not been convicted of a criminal offense that is designated as a felony, or that is one of the disqualifying misdemeanors set out in (c)(11), (c)(16), or (c)(18), with the exception of any federal or state offenses pertaining to antitrust violations, unfair trade practices, restraints of trade or other similar offenses relating to the regulations of business practices;

(7) That the applicant is not currently under indictment or information for any criminal offense that is designated as a felony, or that is one of the disqualifying misdemeanors set out in (c)(11), (c)(16), or (c)(18), with the exception of any federal or state offenses pertaining to antitrust violations, unfair trade practices, restraints of trade or other similar offenses relating to the regulations of business practices;

(8) That the applicant is not currently subject to any order of protection and, if so, the applicant shall provide a copy of the order;

(9) That the applicant is not a fugitive from justice;

(10) That the applicant is not an unlawful user of or addicted to alcohol or any controlled substance and the applicant has not been a patient in a rehabilitation program or hospitalized for al-

cohol or controlled substance abuse or addiction within ten (10) years from the date of application;

(11) That the applicant has not been convicted of the offense of driving under the influence of an intoxicant in this or any other state two (2) or more times within ten (10) years from the date of the application and that none of such convictions has occurred within five (5) years from the date of application or renewal;

(12) That the applicant has not been adjudicated as a mental defective; has not been committed to or hospitalized in a mental institution; has not had a court appoint a conservator for the applicant by reason of a mental defect; has not been judicially determined to be disabled by reason of mental illness, developmental disability or other mental incapacity; and has not, within seven (7) years from the date of application, been found by a court to pose an immediate substantial likelihood of serious harm, as defined in title 33, chapter 6, part 5, because of mental illness;

(13) That the applicant is not an alien and is not illegally or unlawfully in the United States;

(14) That the applicant has not been discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions;

(15) That the applicant has not renounced the applicant's United States citizenship;

(16) That the applicant has not been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921(33);

(17) That the applicant is not receiving social security disability benefits by reason of alcohol dependence, drug dependence or mental disability; and

(18) That the applicant has not been convicted of the offense of stalking

(g)(1) Upon receipt of a permit application, the department shall:

(A) Forward two (2) full sets of fingerprints of the applicant to the Tennessee bureau of investigation; and

(B) Send a copy of the application to the sheriff of the county in which the applicant resides.

(2) Within thirty (30) days of receiving an application, the sheriff shall provide the department with any information concerning the truthfulness of the applicant's answers to the eligibility requirements of subsection (c) that is within the knowledge of the sheriff.

(h) Upon receipt of the fingerprints from the department, the Tennessee bureau of investigation shall:

(1) Within thirty (30) days from receipt of the fingerprints, conduct computer searches to determine the applicant's eligibility for a permit under subsection (c) as are available to the bureau based solely upon the applicant's name, date of birth and social security number and send the results of the searches to the department;

(2) Conduct a criminal history record check based upon one (1) set of the fingerprints received and send the results to the department; and

(3) Send one (1) set of the fingerprints received from the department to the federal bureau of investigation, request a federal criminal history record check based upon such fingerprints, as long as such service is available, and send the results of such check to the department.

(i) The department shall deny a permit application if it determines from information contained in the criminal history record checks conducted

by the Tennessee and federal bureaus of investigation pursuant to subsection (h), or from other information that comes to the attention of the department, that the applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements of this section. The department shall not be required to confirm the applicant's eligibility for a permit beyond the information received from the Tennessee and federal bureaus of investigation and the sheriffs, if any

(n)(1) Except as provided in (n)(2), a permit issued pursuant to this section shall be good for four (4) years and shall entitle the permit holder to carry any handgun or handguns that the permit holder legally owns or possesses. The permit holder shall have the permit in the holder's immediate possession at all times when carrying a handgun and shall display the permit on demand of a law enforcement officer.

(2) A Tennessee permit issued pursuant to this section to a person who is in or who enters into the United States armed forces shall continue in effect for so long as the person's service continues and such person is stationed outside this state, notwithstanding the fact that the person may be temporarily in this state on furlough, leave, or delay en route, and for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days following the date on which the person is honorably discharged or separated from service or returns to this state on reassignment to a duty station in this state, unless the permit is sooner suspended, cancelled or revoked for cause as provided by law. The permit is valid only when in the immediate possession of the permit holder and the permit holder has in the holder's immediate possession the holder's discharge or separation papers, if the permit holder has been discharged or separated from the service.

(q)(1) Prior to the expiration of a permit, a permit holder may apply to the department for the renewal of such permit by submitting, under oath, a renewal application with a renewal fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00). The renewal application shall be on a standard form developed by the department of safety and shall require the applicant to disclose, under oath, the information concerning the applicant as set forth in subsection (c), and shall require the applicant to certify that the applicant still satisfies all the eligibility requirements of this section for the issuance of a permit. In the event the permit expires prior to the department's approval or issuance of notice of denial regarding the renewal application, the permit holder shall be entitled to continue to use the expired permit; provided, however, that the permit holder shall also be required to prove by displaying a receipt for the renewal application fee that the renewal application was delivered to the department prior to the expiration date of the permit.

(2) Any person whose handgun carry permit expires and who applies for a renewal of such handgun carry permit within six (6) months from the date of expiration shall only be required to comply with the renewal provisions of subdivision (q)(1). If the renewal application is filed six (6) months or more from the date of expiration, the person shall, for all purposes, be considered a new applicant.

(3) If a person whose handgun carry permit remained valid pursuant to subsection (n)(2) because such person was in the United States armed forces applies for a renewal of such permit within six (6) months of the expiration of the sixty (60) day period following discharge, separation, or return to this state on reassignment to a

duty station in this state as provided in subdivision (n)(2), such person shall only be required to comply with the renewal provisions of subdivision (q)(1). If the renewal application is filed six (6) months or more from expiration of the sixty (60) day period following the date of honorable discharge, separation, or return to this state on reassignment to a duty station in this state, the person shall, for all purposes, be considered a new applicant.

(r)(1) A facially valid handgun permit, firearms permit, weapons permit or license issued by another state shall be valid in this state according to its terms and shall be treated as if it is a handgun permit issued by this state; provided, however, the provisions of this subsection (r) shall not be construed to authorize the holder of any out-of-state permit or license to carry, in this state, any firearm or weapon other than a handgun.

(2) For a person to lawfully carry a handgun in this state based upon a permit or license issued in another state, the person must be in possession of the permit or license at all times such person carries a handgun in this state.

(3)(A) The commissioner of safety shall enter into written reciprocity agreements with other states that require the execution of the agreements. The commissioner of safety shall prepare and publicly publish a current list of states honoring permits issued by the state of Tennessee and shall make the list available to anyone upon request. The commissioner of safety shall also prepare and publicly publish a current list of states who, after inquiry by the commissioner, refuse to enter into a reciprocity agreement with this state or honor handgun carry permits issued by this state. To the extent that any state may impose conditions in the reciprocity agreements, the commissioner of safety shall publish those conditions as part of the list. If another state imposes conditions on Tennessee permit holders in a reciprocity agreement, the conditions shall also become a part of the agreement and apply to the other state's permit holders when they carry a handgun in this state.

(B) If a person with a handgun permit from another state decides to become a resident of Tennessee, the person must obtain a Tennessee handgun permit within six (6) months of establishing residency in Tennessee. The permit may be issued based on the person having a permit from another state provided the other state has substantially similar permit eligibility requirements as this state. However, if during such six (6) month period the person applies for a handgun permit in this state and the application is denied, the person shall not be allowed to carry a handgun in this state based upon the other state's permit.

(C)(i) If a person who is a resident of and handgun permit holder in another state is employed in this state on a regular basis and desires to carry a handgun in this state, the person shall have six (6) months from the last day of the sixth month of regular employment in this state to obtain a Tennessee handgun carry permit. The permit may be issued based on the person having a permit from another state provided the other state has substantially similar permit eligibility requirements as this state. However, if during the six (6) month period the person applies for a handgun permit in this state and the application is denied, the person shall not be allowed to carry a handgun in this state based upon the other state's permit.

(ii) The provisions of this subdivision (r)(3)(C) shall not apply if the state of residence of the person employed in Tennessee has entered into a handgun permit reciprocity agreement with this state pursuant to this subsection (r).

(iii) As used in this subdivision (r)(3)(C), "employed in this state on a regular basis" means a person has been gainfully employed in this state for at least thirty (30) hours a week for six (6) consecutive months not counting any absence from employment caused by the employee's use of sick leave, annual leave, administrative leave or compensatory time. ...

(v) Any permit issued pursuant to this section shall be deemed a "license" within the meaning of title 36, chapter 5, part 7, dealing with the enforcement of child support obligations through license denial and revocation.

**Notes:** On and after January, 1, 2010, subdivision (c)(12) and subsection (i) read as:

(12) That the applicant has not been adjudicated as a mental defective, has not been judicially committed to or hospitalized in a mental institution pursuant to title 33, has not had a court appoint a conservator for the applicant by reason of a mental defect, has not been judicially determined to be disabled by reason of mental illness, developmental disability or other mental incapacity, and has not, within seven (7) years from the date of application, been found by a court to pose an immediate substantial likelihood of serious harm, as defined in title 33, chapter 6, part 5, because of mental illness;

(i) The department shall deny a permit application if it determines from information contained in the criminal history record checks conducted by the Tennessee and federal bureaus of investigation pursuant to subsection

(h), from information received from the clerks of court regarding individuals adjudicated as a mental defective or judicially committed to a mental institution pursuant to title 33, or from other information that comes to the attention of the department, that the applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements of this section. The department shall not be required to confirm the applicant's eligibility for a permit beyond the information received from the Tennessee and federal bureaus of investigation, the clerks of court and the sheriffs, if any.

**39-17-1360. Rules and regulations.** The department of safety is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, to implement the provisions of §§ 39-17-1351 - 39-17-1360.

**[Current through 2009 Regular Session]**