

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: S4/3/19
A Bill

SENATE BILL 660

By: Senator T. Garner

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MODERNIZE THE CONCEALED HANDGUN LICENSING
FRAMEWORK; CONCERNING THE POSSESSION OF A HANDGUN;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO MODERNIZE THE CONCEALED HANDGUN
LICENSING FRAMEWORK; AND CONCERNING THE
POSSESSION OF A HANDGUN.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-73-101, concerning definitions used concerning weapons, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(12) "Publicly owned building or facility" means a structure or enclosed area that is owned, operated, or administered by the United States Government, state government, or a county, local, regional, or municipal government for public use.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-73-119(c)(1), concerning the possession of a handgun upon the property of any private institution of higher education or a publicly supported institution of higher education, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1)(A) Except as provided in § 5-73-322, a person in this state shall not possess a handgun upon the property of any private institution of higher education or a publicly supported institution of higher education in this state on or about his or her person, in a vehicle occupied by him or



her, or otherwise readily available for use with a purpose to employ the handgun as a weapon against a person.

(B) However, a person with a license to carry a concealed handgun with a concealed carry endorsement under § 5-73-322 may possess and store a handgun in his or her room inside of a university or college-operated student dormitory or residence hall under § 5-73-322(d).

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-73-122(a)(3), concerning the exceptions to the prohibition against possessing a firearm in a publicly owned building or facility, is amended to add a new subdivision to read as follows:

(F) If the person is a member of a board or commission established under state law and the person possesses the handgun in or at a publicly owned building or facility where a meeting of the board or commission is being held.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 5-73-306(5), concerning the places where a person with a license to carry a concealed handgun is prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(5)(A) Any courthouse, courthouse annex, or other building owned, leased, or regularly used by a county for conducting court proceedings or housing a county office unless:

~~(A)(i)~~ The licensee is:

~~(i)(a)~~ Employed by the county;

~~(ii)(b)~~ A countywide elected official;

~~(iii)(c)~~ A justice of the peace; or

~~(iv)(a)(d)(1)~~ Employed by a governmental entity, other than the county, with an office or place of employment inside the courthouse, the courthouse annex, or other building owned, leased, or regularly used by the county for conducting court proceedings or housing a county office.

~~(b)(2)~~ A licensee is limited to carrying a concealed handgun under subdivision ~~(5)(A)(iv)(a)(5)(A)(i)(d)(1)~~ of this section into the courthouse, courthouse annex, or other building owned, leased, or regularly used by the county for conducting court proceedings or housing a county office where the office or place of employment of the

governmental entity that employs him or her is located;

~~(B)(ii)~~ The licensee's principal place of employment is within the courthouse, the courthouse annex, or other building owned, leased, or regularly used by the county for conducting court proceedings or housing a county office; and

~~(C)(iii)~~ The quorum court by ordinance approves a plan that allows licensees permitted under this subdivision (5) to carry a concealed handgun into the courthouse, courthouse annex, or other building owned, leased, or regularly used by a county for conducting court proceedings or housing a county office, as set out by the local security and emergency preparedness plan~~s~~.

(B) The prohibition against carrying a concealed handgun into a building housing a county office under this subdivision (5) does not apply to a licensee who has obtained a concealed carry endorsement under § 5-73-322(g) if the building housing the county office does not also contain a courthouse or courtroom and an administrative hearing is not underway in the building;

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 5-73-322(d), concerning the storage of a handgun in a university or college-operated student dormitory or residence hall, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The storage of a handgun in a university or college-operated student dormitory or residence hall is ~~prohibited under § 5-73-119(e)~~ permitted if the handgun:

((1) Is lawfully possessed;

(2) Is stored out of sight inside a locked room in the student dormitory or residence hall; and

(3)(A) Is stored inside a locked personal handgun storage container that is designed for the safe storage of a handgun.

(B) A person is not required to store the handgun in the personal handgun storage container until he or she is leaving his or her room in the student dormitory or residence hall.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 5-73-322(g)(2)(A), concerning the training for a license to carry a concealed handgun with a concealed carry endorsement, is amended to read as follows:

- (2)(A) Training required under this subsection ~~shall~~:
- (i) ~~Not be required to be renewed~~ Does not require renewal;
 - (ii) ~~Consist~~ Shall consist of a course of up to eight (8) hours;
 - (iii) ~~Be~~ May be offered by all training instructors and at all concealed carry training courses; and
 - (iv) ~~Cost~~ Shall cost no more than a nominal amount.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 73, Subchapter 3, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

5-73-327. Government not a private entity.

The United States Government, the state government, or a county, local, regional, or municipal government is not considered:

- (1) An entity exercising control over a physical location under § 5-73-306(18); or
- (2) A private entity under § 5-73-306(19).

/s/T. Garner