

CHAPTER 455**(HB 156)**

AN ACT relating to concealed deadly weapons.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 237.110 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The Department of State Police is authorized to issue licenses to carry concealed firearms or other deadly weapons to persons qualified as provided in this section. The Department of State Police or the Administrative Office of the Courts shall conduct a record check, covering all offenses and conditions which are required under 18 U.S.C. sec. 922(g) and this section, in the manner provided by 18 U.S.C. sec. 922(s). Licenses shall be valid throughout the state for a period of *five (5)*~~three (3)~~ years from the date of issuance. Any person in compliance with the terms of the license may carry a concealed firearm or other deadly weapon or combination of firearms and other deadly weapons on or about his person. The licensee shall carry the license at all times the licensee is carrying a concealed firearm or other deadly weapon and shall display the license upon request of a law enforcement officer. Violation of the provisions of this subsection shall constitute a noncriminal violation with a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25), payable to the clerk of the District Court.
- (2) The Department of State Police, following the record check required by subsection (1) of this section, shall issue a license if the applicant:
 - (a) Is a resident of the state and has been a resident for six (6) months or longer immediately preceding the filing of the application;
 - (b) Is twenty-one (21) years of age or older;
 - (c) Is not ineligible to possess a firearm pursuant to 18 U.S.C. sec. 922(d)(1), (g) or KRS 527.040;
 - (d) Has not been committed to a state or federal facility for the abuse of a controlled substance or been convicted of a misdemeanor violation of KRS Chapter 218A or similar laws of any other state relating to controlled substances within a three (3) year period immediately preceding the date on which the application is submitted;
 - (e) Does not chronically and habitually use alcoholic beverages as evidenced by the applicant having two (2) or more convictions for violating KRS 189A.010 within the three (3) years immediately preceding his application or if the applicant has been committed as an alcoholic pursuant to KRS Chapter 222, or similar laws of any other state, within the three (3) year period immediately preceding the date on which the application is submitted;
 - (f) Demonstrates competence with a firearm by any one (1) of the following:
 1. Completion, prior to, on, or after October 1, 1996, of any hunter education and firearms safety course approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife or a similar agency of another state. The Department of Fish and Wildlife may impose additional qualifications by promulgation of administrative regulations to meet the requirements of this section and may establish fees as may be required, so as to avoid a diversion of fish and game funds as specified in 50 C.F.R. Part

80. Any fee assessed shall be reasonable and shall not exceed the actual cost of administering the program;
2. Completion, prior to, on, or after October 1, 1996, of any law enforcement firearms safety or training course or class offered for special local peace officers or special law enforcement officers conducted or approved by the Department of Criminal Justice Training;
 3. Completion, prior to, on, or after October 1, 1996, of any firearm safety or training course or class available to the general public offered by law enforcement, junior college, college, or private or public institution or organization or firearms training school, utilizing instructors certified by the Department of Criminal Justice Training; or
 4. Completion, prior to, on, or after October 1, 1996, of any firearms training or safety course or class conducted by a state-certified firearms instructor or an instructor holding a certification as a firearms instructor issued by a state or federal agency.

Classes presented pursuant to this paragraph shall include instruction on handguns, the safe use of handguns, the care and cleaning of handguns, handgun marksmanship principles, and actual range firing of a handgun in a safe manner. Classes presented pursuant to this paragraph shall include information on laws relating to firearms as described in KRS Chapters 237 and 527 and the law of the use of force as described in KRS Chapter 503. The Department of Criminal Justice Training, Department of State Police, and any other state agency with the authority to certify firearms instructors, shall promulgate uniform administrative regulations concerning the certification and decertification of all firearms instructors practicing in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, no person shall qualify as having demonstrated competence with a firearm pursuant to this subsection, unless certified by a governmental agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, or of the federal government. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall publish and make available, at no cost, information in a manner suitable for distribution to class participants. A legible photocopy of a certificate of completion of any of the courses or classes or a notarized affidavit from the instructor, school, club, organization, or group that conducts or teaches the course or class attesting to the completion of the course or class by the applicant shall constitute evidence of qualification under this paragraph. Peace officers who are retired and are members of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, State Police Retirement System, or County Employees Retirement System *or other retirement system operated by or for a city, county, or urban-county in Kentucky* shall be deemed to have met the training requirement;

- (g) Has not been adjudicated an incompetent under KRS Chapter 202B or has waited three (3) years from the date his competency was restored by the court order under KRS Chapter 202B; and
- (h) Has not been involuntarily committed to a mental institution pursuant to KRS Chapter 202A, unless he possesses a certificate from a psychiatrist licensed in this state that he has not suffered from disability for a period of three (3) years.

- (3) The Department of State Police may deny a license if the applicant has been found guilty of a violation of KRS 508.030 or 508.080 within the three (3) year period prior to the date on which the application is submitted or may revoke a license if the licensee has been found guilty of a violation of KRS 508.030 or 508.080 within the preceding three (3) years.
- (4) The application for a permit, or renewal of a permit, to carry a concealed deadly weapon shall be obtained from the office of the sheriff in the county in which the person resides. The completed application and all accompanying material plus an application fee or renewal fee, as appropriate, of sixty dollars (\$60) shall be presented to the office of the sheriff of the county in which the applicant resides. A retired peace officer who is a member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, State Police Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, or other retirement system operated by or for a city, county, or urban-county in Kentucky shall be exempt from paying the application or renewal fees following the date of his retirement. The sheriff shall transmit the application and accompanying material to the Department of State Police within five (5) working days. Twenty dollars (\$20) of the application fee shall be retained by the office of the sheriff for official expenses of the office. Twenty dollars (\$20) shall be sent to the Department of State Police with the application. Ten dollars (\$10) shall be transmitted by the sheriff to the Administrative Office of the Courts to fund background checks for youth leaders, and ten dollars (\$10) shall be transmitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts to fund background checks for applicants for concealed weapons. The application shall be completed, under oath, on a form promulgated by the Department of State Police by administrative regulation which shall only include:
 - (a) The name, address, place and date of birth, gender, and Social Security number of the applicant;
 - (b) A statement that, to the best of his knowledge, the applicant is in compliance with criteria contained within subsections (2) and (3) of this section;
 - (c) A statement that the applicant has been furnished a copy of this section and is knowledgeable about its provisions;
 - (d) A statement that the applicant has been furnished a copy of, has read, and understands KRS Chapter 503 as it pertains to the use of deadly force for self-defense in Kentucky; and
 - (e) A conspicuous warning that the application is executed under oath and that a materially false answer to any question, or the submission of any materially false document by the applicant, subjects the applicant to criminal prosecution under KRS 523.030.
- (5) The Department of State Police shall deny, suspend, or revoke a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon upon written notice by the Cabinet for Families and Children that the person has a child support arrearage which equals or exceeds the cumulative amount which would be owed after one (1) year of nonpayment, or for failure, after receiving appropriate notice, to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to paternity or child support proceedings.
- (6) The applicant, if a resident of the Commonwealth, shall submit to the sheriff of the applicant's county of residence:
 - (a) A completed application as described in subsection (5) of this section;

- (b) A recent color photograph of the applicant, as prescribed by administrative regulation; and
 - (c) A photocopy of a certificate or an affidavit or document as described in subsection (2)(f) of this section.
- (7) The Department of State Police shall, within ninety (90) days after the date of receipt of the items listed in subsection (6) of this section, either:
- (a) Issue the license; or
 - (b) Deny the application based solely on the grounds that the applicant fails to qualify under the criteria listed in subsection (2) or (3) of this section. If the Department of State Police denies the application, it shall notify the applicant in writing, stating the grounds for denial and informing the applicant of a right to submit, within thirty (30) days, any additional documentation relating to the grounds of denial. Upon receiving any additional documentation, the Department of State Police shall reconsider its decision and inform the applicant within twenty (20) days of the result of the reconsideration. The applicant shall further be informed of the right to seek de novo review of the denial in the District Court of his place of residence *within ninety (90) days from the date of the letter advising the applicant of the denial.*
- (8) The Department of State Police shall maintain an automated listing of licenseholders and pertinent information, and this information shall be available on-line, upon request, at all times to all Kentucky law enforcement agencies. Except as provided in this subsection, information on applications for licenses, names and addresses, or other identifying information relating to license holders shall be confidential and shall not be made available except to law enforcement agencies. Requests for information to be provided to any requester other than a bona fide law enforcement agency which has direct access to the Law Enforcement Information Network of Kentucky shall be made, in writing, directly to the commissioner of the Department of State Police, together with the fee required for the providing of the information. The Department of State Police shall, upon proper application and the payment of the required fee, provide to the requester in hard copy form only, a list of names of all holders in the Commonwealth of a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon. No identifying information other than the name shall be provided, and information for geographic areas or other subdivisions of any type from the list shall not be provided and shall be confidential. The fee to be charged shall be the same as for other public records provided by the Department of State Police. No request for lists of local or statewide permit holders shall be made to any state or local law enforcement agency, peace officer, or other agency of government other than the Department of State Police, and no state or local law enforcement agency, peace officer, or agency of government, other than the Department of State Police, shall provide any information not entitled to it by law. The names of all persons, other than law enforcement agencies and peace officers, requesting information under this section shall be a public record.
- (9) Within thirty (30) days after the changing of a permanent address, or within thirty (30) days after the loss or destruction of a license, the licensee shall notify the Department of State Police of the loss or destruction. Failure to notify the Department of State Police shall constitute a noncriminal violation with a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25) payable to the clerk of the District Court. When a licensee makes application to change his or her residence address or other information on the license, neither the sheriff nor the Department of State

Police shall require a surrender of the license until a new license is in the office of the applicable sheriff and available for issuance. Upon the issuance of a new license, the old license shall be destroyed by the sheriff.

- (10) If a license is lost or destroyed, the license shall be automatically invalid, and the person to whom the same was issued may, upon payment of fifteen dollars (\$15) to the Department of State Police, obtain a duplicate, upon furnishing a notarized statement to the Department of State Police that the license has been lost or destroyed.
- (11) A license issued under this section shall be suspended or revoked if the licensee becomes ineligible to be issued a license under the criteria set forth in subsection (2)(a), (c), (d), (e), (f), or (h) of this section. When a domestic violence order or emergency protective order is issued pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 403 against a person holding a license issued under this section, the holder of the permit shall surrender the license to the court or to the officer serving the order. The officer to whom the license is surrendered shall forthwith transmit the license to the court issuing the order. The license shall be suspended until the order is terminated, or until the judge who issued the order terminates the suspension prior to the termination of the underlying domestic violence order or emergency protective order, in writing and by return of the license, upon proper motion by the license holder. Subject to the same conditions as above, a peace officer against whom an emergency protective order or domestic violence order has been issued shall not be permitted to carry a concealed deadly weapon when not on duty, the provisions of KRS 527.020 to the contrary notwithstanding.
- (12) Not less than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration date of the license, the Department of State Police shall mail to each licensee a written notice of the expiration and a renewal form prescribed by the Department of State Police. The licensee may renew his license on or before the expiration date by filing with the sheriff of his county of residence the renewal form, a notarized affidavit stating that the licensee remains qualified pursuant to the criteria specified in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, and the required renewal fee. The license shall be renewed to a qualified applicant upon receipt of the completed renewal application and appropriate payment of fees. When a licensee makes application for a renewal of his or her license, neither the sheriff nor the Department of State Police shall require a surrender of the license until the new license is in the office of the applicable sheriff and available for issuance. Upon the issuance of a new license, the old license shall be destroyed by the sheriff. A licensee who fails to file a renewal application on or before its expiration date may renew his license by paying, in addition to the license fees, a late fee of fifteen dollars (\$15). No license shall be renewed six (6) months or more after its expiration date, and the license shall be deemed to be permanently expired six (6) months after its expiration date. A person whose license has permanently expired may reapply for licensure pursuant to subsections (5), (6) and (7) of this section.
- (13) No license issued pursuant to this section shall authorize any person to carry a concealed firearm into:
 - (a) Any police station or sheriff's office;
 - (b) Any detention facility, prison, or jail;
 - (c) Any courthouse, solely occupied by the Court of Justice courtroom, or court proceeding, except that nothing in this section shall preclude a judge from carrying a concealed weapon;

- (d) Any meeting of the governing body of a county, municipality, or special district; or any meeting of the General Assembly or a committee of the General Assembly, except that nothing in this section shall preclude a member of the body, holding a concealed deadly weapon license, from carrying a concealed deadly weapon at a meeting of the body of which he is a member;
 - (e) Any portion of an establishment licensed to dispense beer or alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, which portion of the establishment is primarily devoted to that purpose;
 - (f) Any elementary or secondary school facility without the consent of school authorities as provided in KRS 527.070, any child-caring facility as defined in KRS 199.011, any day-care center as defined in KRS 199.894, or any certified family child-care home as defined in KRS 199.8982, except however, any owner of a certified child-care home may carry a concealed firearm into the owner's residence used as a certified child-care home;
 - (g) An area of an airport to which access is controlled by the inspection of persons and property; *or*
 - ~~(h) Any church, synagogue, house of worship, or other property owned, leased, or otherwise used and operated by a religious organization in the furtherance of a religious purpose, unless the person carrying the concealed deadly weapon has a concealed deadly weapon license and is the pastor of the church or an officer of the church; or~~
 - ~~(i) Any place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law.~~
- (14) The owner, business or commercial lessee, or manager of a private business enterprise, day-care center as defined in KRS 199.894 or certified or licensed family child-care home as defined in KRS 199.8982, or a health-care facility licensed under KRS Chapter 216B, except facilities renting or leasing housing, may prohibit persons holding concealed deadly weapon licenses from carrying concealed deadly weapons on the premises and may prohibit employees, not authorized by the employer, holding concealed deadly weapons licenses from carrying concealed deadly weapons on the property of the employer. If the building or the premises are open to the public, the employer or business enterprise shall post signs on or about the premises if carrying concealed weapons is prohibited. Possession of weapons in a vehicle on the premises shall not be a criminal offense so long as the weapons are not removed from the vehicle or brandished while the vehicle is on the premises. A private but not a public employer may prohibit employees or other persons holding a concealed deadly weapons license from carrying concealed deadly weapons in vehicles owned by the employer, but may not prohibit employees or other persons holding a concealed deadly weapons license from carrying concealed deadly weapons in vehicles owned by the employee, except that the Justice Cabinet may prohibit an employee from carrying any weapons, other than the weapons issued or authorized to be used by the employee of the cabinet, in a vehicle while transporting persons under the employee's supervision or jurisdiction. Carrying of a concealed weapon in a location specified in this subsection by a license holder shall not be a criminal act but may subject the person to denial from the premises or removal from the premises, and, if an employee of an employer, disciplinary measures by the employer.

- (15) All moneys collected by the Department of State Police pursuant to this section shall be used to administer the provisions of this section. By March 1 of each year, the Department of State Police and the Administrative Office of the Courts shall submit reports to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, indicating the amounts of money collected and the expenditures related to this section and KRS 237.115, 244.125, 527.020, and 527.070, and the administration of the provisions of this section and KRS 237.115, 244.125, 527.020, and 527.070.
- (16) The General Assembly finds as a matter of public policy that it is necessary to provide statewide uniform standards for issuing licenses to carry concealed firearms and to occupy the field of regulation of the bearing of concealed firearms to ensure that no person who qualifies under the provisions of this section is denied his rights. The General Assembly does not delegate to the Department of State Police the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section beyond those provisions contained in this section. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense.
- (17) (a) A person who has a valid license issued by another state of the United States to carry a concealed deadly weapon in that state may, subject to provisions of Kentucky law, carry a concealed deadly weapon in Kentucky, and his license shall be considered as valid in Kentucky.
- (b) The Department of State Police shall, not later than thirty (30) days after July 15, 1998, and not less than once every six (6) months thereafter, make written inquiry of the concealed deadly weapon carrying licensing authorities in each other state as to whether a Kentucky resident may carry a concealed deadly weapon in their state based upon having a valid Kentucky concealed deadly weapon license, or whether a Kentucky resident may apply for a concealed deadly weapon carrying license in that state based upon having a valid Kentucky concealed deadly weapon license. The Department of State Police shall attempt to secure from each other state permission for Kentucky residents who hold a valid Kentucky concealed deadly weapon license to carry concealed deadly weapons in that state, either on the basis of the Kentucky license or on the basis that the Kentucky license is sufficient to permit the issuance of a similar license by the other state. The Department of State Police shall enter into a written reciprocity agreement with the appropriate agency in each state that agrees to permit Kentucky residents to carry concealed deadly weapons in the other state on the basis of a Kentucky-issued concealed deadly weapon license or that will issue a license to carry concealed deadly weapons in the other state based upon a Kentucky concealed deadly weapon license. If a reciprocity agreement is reached, the requirement to recontact the other state each six (6) months shall be eliminated as long as the reciprocity agreement is in force. The information shall be a public record and shall be available to individual requesters free of charge for the first copy and at the normal rate for open records requests for additional copies.
- (18) By March 1 of each year, the Department of State Police shall submit a statistical report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, indicating the number of licenses issued, revoked, suspended, and denied since the previous report and in total and also the number of licenses currently valid. The report shall also include the number of arrests, convictions, and types of crimes committed since the previous report by individuals licensed to carry concealed weapons.

Section 2. Any person licensed to carry a concealed firearm upon the effective date of this Act shall automatically have his or her license to carry a concealed firearm extended to a period of five (5) years.

Approved April 21, 2000