

Representative Stephen E. Sandstrom proposes the following substitute bill:

FIREARMS AMENDMENTS

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Stephen E. Sandstrom

Senate Sponsor: Margaret Dayton

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions of Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7, Concealed Firearm Act, related to the denial, suspension, or revocation of a concealed firearm permit and Title 76, Chapter 10, Part 5, Weapons, regarding restrictions on the possession, purchase, transfer, and ownership of firearms by certain persons.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ provides that the Bureau of Criminal Identification may, rather than shall, deny, suspend, or revoke a concealed firearm permit on the basis of an indictment for a crime of violence in any state, but shall reverse that action upon notice of dismissal of the indictment or acquittal;
- ▶ provides an affirmative defense for Category I and II restricted persons charged with possession or transfer of firearms or other dangerous weapons; and
- ▶ makes certain technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None



Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53-5-704, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapters 62 and 283

76-10-503, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2003, Chapters 203 and 235

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53-5-704** is amended to read:

53-5-704. Bureau duties -- Permit to carry concealed firearm -- Certification for concealed firearms instructor -- Requirements for issuance -- Violation -- Denial, suspension, or revocation -- Appeal procedure.

(1) (a) The bureau shall issue a permit to carry a concealed firearm for lawful self defense to an applicant who is 21 years of age or older within 60 days after receiving an application, unless the bureau finds proof that the applicant does not meet the qualifications set forth in Subsection (2).

(b) The permit is valid throughout the state for five years, without restriction, except as otherwise provided by Section 53-5-710.

(c) The provisions of Subsections 76-10-504(1) and (2), and Section 76-10-505 do not apply to a person issued a permit under Subsection (1)(a).

(2) (a) The bureau may deny, suspend, or revoke a concealed firearm permit if the applicant or permit holder:

(i) has been or is convicted of a felony;

(ii) has been or is convicted of a crime of violence;

(iii) has been or is convicted of an offense involving the use of alcohol;

(iv) has been or is convicted of an offense involving the unlawful use of narcotics or other controlled substances;

(v) has been or is convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude;

(vi) has been or is convicted of an offense involving domestic violence;

(vii) has been or is adjudicated by a state or federal court as mentally incompetent, unless the adjudication has been withdrawn or reversed; and

(viii) is not qualified to purchase and possess a firearm pursuant to Section 76-10-503 and federal law.

(b) In determining whether an applicant or permit holder meets the qualifications set forth in Subsection (2)(a), the bureau shall consider mitigating circumstances.

(3) (a) (i) The bureau may deny, suspend, or revoke a concealed firearm permit if it has reasonable cause to believe that the applicant or permit holder has been or is a danger to self or others as demonstrated by evidence, including:

[(i)] (A) past pattern of behavior involving unlawful violence or threats of unlawful violence;

[(ii)] (B) past participation in incidents involving unlawful violence or threats of unlawful violence; [or]

[(iii)] (C) conviction of an offense in violation of Title 76, Chapter 10, Part 5, Weapons[-]; or

(D) indicted for a crime of violence in any state.

(ii) The bureau shall immediately reverse any action taken that was based primarily on an indictment under Subsection (3)(a)(i)(D) upon notice:

(A) that the indictment has been dismissed; or

(B) of acquittal of the person charged in the indictment.

(b) The bureau may not deny, suspend, or revoke a concealed firearm permit solely for a single conviction for an infraction violation of Title 76, Chapter 10, Part 5, Weapons.

(c) In determining whether the applicant or permit holder has been or is a danger to self or others, the bureau may inspect:

(i) expunged records of arrests and convictions of adults as provided in Section 77-40-109; and

(ii) juvenile court records as provided in Section 78A-6-209.

~~[(d) (i) If a person granted a permit under this part has been charged with a crime of violence in any state, the bureau shall suspend the permit.]~~

~~[(ii) Upon notice of the acquittal of the person charged, or notice of the charges having been dropped, the bureau shall immediately reinstate the suspended permit.]~~

(4) A former peace officer who departs full-time employment as a peace officer, in an honorable manner, shall be issued a concealed firearm permit within five years of that departure if the officer meets the requirements of this section.

(5) Except as provided in Subsection (6), the bureau shall also require the applicant to

provide:

- (a) the address of the applicant's permanent residence;
- (b) one recent dated photograph;
- (c) one set of fingerprints; and
- (d) evidence of general familiarity with the types of firearms to be concealed as defined in Subsection (7).

(6) An applicant who is a law enforcement officer under Section 53-13-103 may provide a letter of good standing from the officer's commanding officer in place of the evidence required by Subsection (5)(d).

(7) (a) General familiarity with the types of firearms to be concealed includes training in:

(i) the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of the types of firearms to be concealed; and

(ii) current laws defining lawful use of a firearm by a private citizen, including lawful self-defense, use of force by a private citizen, including use of deadly force, transportation, and concealment.

(b) An applicant may satisfy the general familiarity requirement of Subsection (7)(a) by one of the following:

(i) completion of a course of instruction conducted by a national, state, or local firearms training organization approved by the bureau;

(ii) certification of general familiarity by a person who has been certified by the bureau, which may include a law enforcement officer, military or civilian firearms instructor, or hunter safety instructor; or

(iii) equivalent experience with a firearm through participation in an organized shooting competition, law enforcement, or military service.

(c) Instruction taken by a student under Subsection (7) shall be in person and not through electronic means.

(8) (a) An applicant for certification as a Utah concealed firearms instructor shall:

(i) be at least 21 years of age;

(ii) be currently eligible to possess a firearm under Section 76-10-503 and federal law;

(iii) have a current National Rifle Association certification or its equivalent as

determined by the division; and

(iv) have taken a course of instruction and passed a certification test as described in Subsection (8)(c).

(b) An instructor's certification is valid for three years from the date of issuance, unless revoked by the bureau.

(c) (i) In order to obtain initial certification or renew a certification, an instructor shall attend an instructional course and pass a test under the direction of the bureau.

(ii) (A) The bureau shall provide or contract to provide the course referred to in Subsection (8)(c)(i) twice every year.

(B) The course shall include instruction on current Utah law related to firearms, including concealed carry statutes and rules, and the use of deadly force by private citizens.

(d) (i) Each applicant for certification under this Subsection (8) shall pay a fee of \$50.00 at the time of application for initial certification.

(ii) The renewal fee for the certificate is \$25.

(iii) The fees paid under Subsections (8)(d)(i) and (ii) may be used by the bureau as a dedicated credit to cover the cost incurred in maintaining and improving the instruction program required for concealed firearm instructors under this Subsection (8).

(9) A certified concealed firearms instructor shall provide each of the instructor's students with the required course of instruction outline approved by the bureau.

(10) (a) (i) A concealed firearms instructor is required to provide a signed certificate to a person successfully completing the offered course of instruction.

(ii) The instructor shall sign the certificate with the exact name indicated on the instructor's certification issued by the bureau under Subsection (8).

(iii) (A) The certificate shall also have affixed to it the instructor's official seal, which is the exclusive property of the instructor and may not be used by any other person.

(B) The instructor shall destroy the seal upon revocation or expiration of the instructor's certification under Subsection (8).

(C) The bureau shall determine the design and content of the seal to include at least the following:

(I) the instructor's name as it appears on the instructor's certification;

(II) the words "Utah Certified Concealed Firearms Instructor," "state of Utah," and "my

certification expires on (the instructor's certification expiration date)"; and

(III) the instructor's business or residence address.

(D) The seal shall be affixed to each student certificate issued by the instructor in a manner that does not obscure or render illegible any information or signatures contained in the document.

(b) The applicant shall provide the certificate to the bureau in compliance with Subsection (5)(d).

(11) The division may deny, suspend, or revoke the certification of an applicant or a concealed firearms instructor if it has reason to believe the applicant or the instructor has:

(a) become ineligible to possess a firearm under Section 76-10-503 or federal law; or

(b) knowingly and willfully provided false information to the bureau.

(12) An applicant for certification or a concealed firearms instructor has the same appeal rights as set forth in Subsection (15).

(13) In providing instruction and issuing a permit under this part, the concealed firearms instructor and the bureau are not vicariously liable for damages caused by the permit holder.

(14) An individual who knowingly and willfully provides false information on an application filed under this part is guilty of a class B misdemeanor, and the application may be denied, or the permit may be suspended or revoked.

(15) (a) In the event of a denial, suspension, or revocation of a permit, the applicant or permit holder may file a petition for review with the board within 60 days from the date the denial, suspension, or revocation is received by the applicant or permit holder by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(b) The bureau's denial of a permit shall be in writing and shall include the general reasons for the action.

(c) If an applicant or permit holder appeals the denial to the review board, the applicant or permit holder may have access to the evidence upon which the denial is based in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act.

(d) On appeal to the board, the bureau has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence.

(e) (i) Upon a ruling by the board on the appeal of a denial, the division shall issue a

final order within 30 days stating the board's decision.

(ii) The final order shall be in the form prescribed by Subsection 63G-4-203(1)(i).

(iii) The final order is final bureau action for purposes of judicial review under Section 63G-4-402.

(16) The commissioner may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, necessary to administer this chapter.

Section 2. Section **76-10-503** is amended to read:

76-10-503. Restrictions on possession, purchase, transfer, and ownership of dangerous weapons by certain persons.

(1) For purposes of this section:

(a) A Category I restricted person is a person who:

(i) has been convicted of any violent felony as defined in Section 76-3-203.5;

(ii) is on probation or parole for any felony;

(iii) is on parole from a secure facility as defined in Section 62A-7-101; or

(iv) within the last 10 years has been adjudicated delinquent for an offense which if committed by an adult would have been a violent felony as defined in Section 76-3-203.5.

(b) A Category II restricted person is a person who:

(i) has been convicted of or is under indictment for any felony;

(ii) within the last seven years has been adjudicated delinquent for an offense which if committed by an adult would have been a felony;

(iii) is an unlawful user of a controlled substance as defined in Section 58-37-2;

(iv) is in possession of a dangerous weapon and is knowingly and intentionally in unlawful possession of a Schedule I or II controlled substance as defined in Section 58-37-2;

(v) has been found not guilty by reason of insanity for a felony offense;

(vi) has been found mentally incompetent to stand trial for a felony offense;

(vii) has been adjudicated as mentally defective as provided in the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, Pub. L. No. 103-159, 107 Stat. 1536 (1993), or has been committed to a mental institution;

(viii) is an alien who is illegally or unlawfully in the United States;

(ix) has been dishonorably discharged from the armed forces; or

(x) has renounced his citizenship after having been a citizen of the United States.

(2) A Category I restricted person who intentionally or knowingly agrees, consents, offers, or arranges to purchase, transfer, possess, use, or have under ~~his~~ the person's custody or control, or who intentionally or knowingly purchases, transfers, possesses, uses, or has under ~~his~~ the person's custody or control:

(a) any firearm is guilty of a second degree felony; or

(b) any dangerous weapon other than a firearm is guilty of a third degree felony.

(3) A Category II restricted person who purchases, transfers, possesses, uses, or has under ~~his~~ the person's custody or control:

(a) any firearm is guilty of a third degree felony; or

(b) any dangerous weapon other than a firearm is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

(4) A person may be subject to the restrictions of both categories at the same time.

(5) If a higher penalty than is prescribed in this section is provided in another section for one who purchases, transfers, possesses, uses, or has under this custody or control any dangerous weapon, the penalties of that section control.

(6) It is an affirmative defense to a charge based on the definition in Subsection (1)(b)(iv) that the person was:

(a) in possession of a controlled substance pursuant to a lawful order of a practitioner for use of a member of the person's household or for administration to an animal owned by the person or a member of the person's household; or

(b) otherwise authorized by law to possess the substance.

(7) (a) It is an affirmative defense to transferring a firearm or other dangerous weapon by a person restricted under Subsection (2) or (3) that the firearm or dangerous weapon:

(i) was possessed by the person or was under the person's custody or control before the person became a restricted person;

(ii) was not used in or possessed during the commission of a crime or subject to disposition under Section 76-10-525;

(iii) is not being held as evidence by a court or law enforcement agency;

(iv) was transferred to a person not legally prohibited from possessing the weapon; and

(v) unless a different time is ordered by the sentencing court, was transferred within 10 days of the person's sentencing or release from incarceration for the offense for which the person became a restricted person.

243 (b) Subsection (7)(a) is not a defense to the use, purchase, or possession on the person
244 of a firearm or other dangerous weapon by a restricted person.

FISCAL NOTE

H.B. 122 1st Sub. (Buff)

SHORT TITLE: **Firearms Amendments**

SPONSOR: **Sandstrom, S.**

2011 GENERAL SESSION, STATE OF UTAH

STATE GOVERNMENT (UCA 36-12-13(2)(b))

Enactment of this bill likely will not materially impact the state budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCA 36-12-13(2)(c))

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs for local governments.

DIRECT EXPENDITURES BY UTAH RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES (UCA 36-12-13(2)(d))

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable expenditures by Utah residents or businesses.

3/2/2011, 09:44 AM, Lead Analyst: Syphus, G./Attorney: JLW

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst