

**RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR NONVIOLENT
FELONS**

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Curtis Oda

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill exempts nonviolent felons from the categories of restricted persons who are prohibited from possessing a dangerous weapon.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▶ exempts persons convicted of certain nonviolent felonies from the categories of restricted persons prohibited from possessing a dangerous weapon.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

76-10-503, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 317

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

Section 1. Section **76-10-503** is amended to read:

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



- 28 (1) For purposes of this section:
- 29 (a) A Category I restricted person is a person who:
- 30 (i) has been convicted of any violent felony as defined in Section 76-3-203.5;
- 31 (ii) is on probation or parole for any felony;
- 32 (iii) is on parole from a secure facility as defined in Section 62A-7-101;
- 33 (iv) within the last 10 years has been adjudicated delinquent for an offense which if
- 34 committed by an adult would have been a violent felony as defined in Section 76-3-203.5; or
- 35 (v) is an alien who is illegally or unlawfully in the United States.
- 36 (b) A Category II restricted person is a person who:
- 37 (i) has been convicted of any felony;
- 38 (ii) within the last seven years has been adjudicated delinquent for an offense which if
- 39 committed by an adult would have been a felony;
- 40 (iii) is an unlawful user of a controlled substance as defined in Section 58-37-2;
- 41 (iv) is in possession of a dangerous weapon and is knowingly and intentionally in
- 42 unlawful possession of a Schedule I or II controlled substance as defined in Section 58-37-2;
- 43 (v) has been found not guilty by reason of insanity for a felony offense;
- 44 (vi) has been found mentally incompetent to stand trial for a felony offense;
- 45 (vii) has been adjudicated as mentally defective as provided in the Brady Handgun
- 46 Violence Prevention Act, Pub. L. No. 103-159, 107 Stat. 1536 (1993), or has been committed
- 47 to a mental institution;
- 48 (viii) has been dishonorably discharged from the armed forces; or
- 49 (ix) has renounced his citizenship after having been a citizen of the United States.
- 50 (c) A person is not a restricted person if:
- 51 (i) the person was convicted of a felony offense pertaining to antitrust violations, unfair
- 52 trade practices, restraints of trade, or other similar offenses relating to the regulation of
- 53 business practices; or
- 54 (ii) the person's felony conviction has been expunged, set aside, or reduced to a
- 55 misdemeanor by court order, the person has been pardoned, or the person's civil rights have
- 56 been restored according to the law of the state in which the conviction occurred, unless the
- 57 pardon, reduction, expungement, or restoration of civil rights expressly provides that the person
- 58 may not ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

87 (v) unless a different time is ordered by the court, was transferred within 10 days of the
88 person becoming a restricted person.

89 (b) Subsection (7)(a) is not a defense to the use, purchase, or possession on the person

90 of a firearm or other dangerous weapon by a restricted person.

91 (8) (a) A person may not sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any firearm or
92 dangerous weapon to any person, knowing that the recipient is a person described in
93 Subsection (1)(a) or (b).

94 (b) A person who violates Subsection (8)(a) when the recipient is:

95 (i) a person described in Subsection (1)(a) and the transaction involves a firearm, is
96 guilty of a second degree felony;

97 (ii) a person described in Subsection (1)(a) and the transaction involves any dangerous
98 weapon other than a firearm, is guilty of a third degree felony;

99 (iii) a person described in Subsection (1)(b) and the transaction involves a firearm, is
100 guilty of a third degree felony; or

101 (iv) a person described in Subsection (1)(b) and the transaction involves any dangerous
102 weapon other than a firearm, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

103 (9) (a) A person may not knowingly solicit, persuade, encourage or entice a dealer or
104 other person to sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of a firearm or dangerous weapon under
105 circumstances which the person knows would be a violation of the law.

106 (b) A person may not provide to a dealer or other person what the person knows to be
107 materially false information with intent to deceive the dealer or other person about the legality
108 of a sale, transfer or other disposition of a firearm or dangerous weapon.

109 (c) "Materially false information" means information that portrays an illegal transaction
110 as legal or a legal transaction as illegal.

111 (d) A person who violates this Subsection (9) is guilty of:

112 (i) a third degree felony if the transaction involved a firearm; or

113 (ii) a class A misdemeanor if the transaction involved a dangerous weapon other than a
114 firearm.

Legislative Review Note
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Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel