

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

~~{deleted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0507S02 but was deleted in HB0507S03.

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0507S02 but was inserted into HB0507S03.

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~~{Representative Phil Lyman}~~Senator Stephanie Pitcher proposes the following substitute bill:

FIREARM POSSESSION REVISIONS

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Phil Lyman

Senate Sponsor: Kirk A. Cullimore

Cosponsors:

Melissa G. Ballard

Kera Birkeland

Kay J. Christofferson

Tim Jimenez

Jason Kyle

Trevor Lee

Rex P. Shipp

Christine F. Watkins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends the definition of a restricted person.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ amends the definition of a restricted person; and

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

76-10-501, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapters 212, 406

76-10-503, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 262

76-10-532, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 37

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

Section 1. Section **76-10-501** is amended to read:

76-10-501. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) (a) "Antique firearm" means:

(i) any firearm, including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, manufactured in or before 1898; [or]

(ii) a firearm that is a replica of any firearm described in this Subsection (1)(a), if the replica:

(A) is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; or

(B) uses rimfire or centerfire fixed ammunition which is:

(I) no longer manufactured in the United States; and

(II) is not readily available in ordinary channels of commercial trade; or

(iii) (A) that is a muzzle loading rifle, shotgun, or pistol; and

(B) is designed to use black powder, or a black powder substitute, and cannot use fixed ammunition.

(b) "Antique firearm" does not include:

(i) a weapon that incorporates a firearm frame or receiver;

(ii) a firearm that is converted into a muzzle loading weapon; or

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

(iii) a muzzle loading weapon that can be readily converted to fire fixed ammunition by replacing the:

- (A) barrel;
- (B) bolt;
- (C) breechblock; or
- (D) any combination of Subsection (1)(b)(iii)(A), (B), or (C).

(2) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Criminal Identification created in Section 53-10-201 within the Department of Public Safety.

(3) (a) "Concealed firearm" means a firearm that is:

(i) covered, hidden, or secreted in a manner that the public would not be aware of its presence; and

(ii) readily accessible for immediate use.

(b) A firearm that is unloaded and securely encased is not a concealed firearm for the purposes of this part.

(4) "Criminal history background check" means a criminal background check conducted by a licensed firearms dealer on every purchaser of a handgun, except a Federal Firearms Licensee, through the bureau or the local law enforcement agency where the firearms dealer conducts business.

(5) "Curio or relic firearm" means a firearm that:

(a) is of special interest to a collector because of a quality that is not associated with firearms intended for:

- (i) sporting use;
- (ii) use as an offensive weapon; or
- (iii) use as a defensive weapon;

(b) (i) was manufactured at least 50 years before the current date; and

(ii) is not a replica of a firearm described in Subsection (5)(b)(i);

(c) is certified by the curator of a municipal, state, or federal museum that exhibits firearms to be a curio or relic of museum interest;

(d) derives a substantial part of its monetary value:

(i) from the fact that the firearm is:

(A) novel;

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

(B) rare; or

(C) bizarre; or

(ii) because of the firearm's association with an historical:

(A) figure;

(B) period; or

(C) event; and

(e) has been designated as a curio or relic firearm by the director of the United States Treasury Department Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms under 27 C.F.R. Sec. 478.11.

(6) (a) "Dangerous weapon" means:

(i) a firearm; or

(ii) an object that in the manner of its use or intended use is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

(b) The following factors are used in determining whether any object, other than a firearm, is a dangerous weapon:

(i) the location and circumstances in which the object was used or possessed;

(ii) the primary purpose for which the object was made;

(iii) the character of the wound, if any, produced by the object's unlawful use;

(iv) the manner in which the object was unlawfully used;

(v) whether the manner in which the object is used or possessed constitutes a potential imminent threat to public safety; and

(vi) the lawful purposes for which the object may be used.

(c) "Dangerous weapon" does not include an explosive, chemical, or incendiary device as defined by Section 76-10-306.

(7) "Dealer" means a person who is:

(a) licensed under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923; and

(b) engaged in the business of selling, leasing, or otherwise transferring a handgun, whether the person is a retail or wholesale dealer, pawnbroker, or otherwise.

(8) "Domestic violence" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-36-1.

~~(8)~~ (9) "Enter" means intrusion of the entire body.

~~(9)~~ (10) "Federal Firearms Licensee" means a person who:

(a) holds a valid Federal Firearms License issued under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923; and

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

(b) is engaged in the activities authorized by the specific category of license held.

~~[(10)]~~ (11) (a) "Firearm" means a pistol, revolver, shotgun, short barreled shotgun, rifle or short barreled rifle, or a device that could be used as a dangerous weapon from which is expelled a projectile by action of an explosive.

(b) As used in Sections 76-10-526 and 76-10-527, "firearm" does not include an antique firearm.

~~[(11)]~~ (12) "Firearms transaction record form" means a form created by the bureau to be completed by a person purchasing, selling, or transferring a handgun from a dealer in the state.

~~[(12)]~~ (13) "Fully automatic weapon" means a firearm which fires, is designed to fire, or can be readily restored to fire, automatically more than one shot without manual reloading by a single function of the trigger.

~~[(13)]~~ (14) (a) "Handgun" means a pistol, revolver, or other firearm of any description, loaded or unloaded, from which a shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged, the length of which, not including any revolving, detachable, or magazine breech, does not exceed 12 inches.

(b) As used in Sections 76-10-520, 76-10-521, and 76-10-522, "handgun" and "pistol or revolver" do not include an antique firearm.

~~[(14)]~~ (15) "House of worship" means a church, temple, synagogue, mosque, or other building set apart primarily for the purpose of worship in which religious services are held and the main body of which is kept for that use and not put to any other use inconsistent with its primary purpose.

~~[(15)]~~ (16) "Prohibited area" means a place where it is unlawful to discharge a firearm.

~~[(16)]~~ (17) "Readily accessible for immediate use" means that a firearm or other dangerous weapon is carried on the person or within such close proximity and in such a manner that it can be retrieved and used as readily as if carried on the person.

~~[(17)]~~ (18) "Residence" means an improvement to real property used or occupied as a primary or secondary residence.

~~[(18)]~~ (19) "Securely encased" means not readily accessible for immediate use, such as held in a gun rack, or in a closed case or container, whether or not locked, or in a trunk or other storage area of a motor vehicle, not including a glove box or console box.

~~[(19)]~~ (20) "Short barreled shotgun" or "short barreled rifle" means a shotgun having a

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

barrel or barrels of fewer than 18 inches in length, or in the case of a rifle, having a barrel or barrels of fewer than 16 inches in length, or a dangerous weapon made from a rifle or shotgun by alteration, modification, or otherwise, if the weapon as modified has an overall length of fewer than 26 inches.

~~[(20)]~~ (21) "Shotgun" means a smooth bore firearm designed to fire cartridges containing pellets or a single slug.

~~[(21)]~~ (22) "Shoulder arm" means a firearm that is designed to be fired while braced against the shoulder.

(23) "Single criminal episode" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-1-401.

~~[(22)]~~ (24) "Slug" means a single projectile discharged from a shotgun shell.

~~[(23)]~~ (25) "State entity" means a department, commission, board, council, agency, institution, officer, corporation, fund, division, office, committee, authority, laboratory, library, unit, bureau, panel, or other administrative unit of the state.

~~[(24)]~~ (26) "Violent felony" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-3-203.5.

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 -- Exceptions.

(1) For purposes of this section:

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

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

(ii) is on probation or parole for ~~[any]~~ ~~{}a~~ felony;

(iii) is on parole from secure care, as defined in Section 80-1-102;

(iv) within the last 10 years has been adjudicated under Section 80-6-701 for an offense which if committed by an adult would have been a violent felony as defined in Section 76-3-203.5;

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

(vi) is on probation for a conviction of possessing:

(A) a substance classified in Section 58-37-4 as a Schedule I or II controlled substance;

(B) a controlled substance analog; or

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

(C) a substance listed in Section 58-37-4.2.

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

(i) has been convicted of [~~any~~]:

(A) a domestic violence offense that is a felony;

(B) a felony that is not a domestic violence offense or a violent felony and within seven years after completing the sentence for the conviction, has been convicted of or charged with another felony or class A misdemeanor;

(C) multiple felonies that are part of a single criminal episode and are not domestic violence offenses or violent felonies and within seven years after completing the sentence for the convictions, has been convicted of or charged with another felony or class A misdemeanor;

or

(D) multiple felonies that are not part of a single criminal episode;

(ii) (A) within the last seven years has completed a sentence for:

(I) a conviction for a felony that is not a domestic violence offense or a violent felony;

or

(II) convictions for multiple felonies that are part of a single criminal episode and are not domestic violence offenses or violent felonies; and

(B) within the last seven years and after the completion of a sentence for a conviction described in Subsection (1)(b)(ii)(A), has not been convicted of or charged with another felony or class A misdemeanor;

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

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

~~[(iv)]~~ (v) 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)]~~ (vi) has been found not guilty by reason of insanity for a felony offense;

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

~~[(vii)]~~ (viii) 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)]~~ (ix) has been dishonorably discharged from the armed forces;

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

~~[(ix)]~~ (x) has renounced the individual's citizenship after having been a citizen of the United States;

~~[(x)]~~ (xi) is a respondent or defendant subject to a protective order or child protective order that is issued after a hearing for which the respondent or defendant received actual notice and at which the respondent or defendant has an opportunity to participate, that restrains the respondent or defendant from harassing, stalking, threatening, or engaging in other conduct that would place an intimate partner, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921, or a child of the intimate partner, in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the intimate partner or child of the intimate partner, and that:

(A) includes a finding that the respondent or defendant represents a credible threat to the physical safety of an individual who meets the definition of an intimate partner in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921 or the child of the individual; or

(B) explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force that would reasonably be expected to cause bodily harm against an intimate partner or the child of an intimate partner; or

~~[(x+)]~~ (xii) has been convicted of the commission or attempted commission of assault under Section 76-5-102 or aggravated assault under Section 76-5-103 against a current or former spouse, parent, guardian, individual with whom the restricted person shares a child in common, individual who is cohabitating or has cohabitated with the restricted person as a spouse, parent, or guardian, or against an individual similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the restricted person.

(c) As used in this section, a conviction of a felony or adjudication of delinquency for an offense which would be a felony if committed by an adult does not include:

(i) a conviction or an adjudication under Section 80-6-701 for an offense pertaining to antitrust violations, unfair trade practices, restraint of trade, or other similar offenses relating to the regulation of business practices not involving theft or fraud; or

(ii) a conviction or an adjudication under Section 80-6-701 which, according to the law of the jurisdiction in which it occurred, has been expunged, set aside, reduced to a misdemeanor by court order, pardoned or regarding which the person's civil rights have been restored unless the pardon, reduction, expungement, or restoration of civil rights expressly provides that the person may not ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms.

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

(d) It is the burden of the defendant in a criminal case to provide evidence that a conviction or an adjudication under Section 80-6-701 is subject to an exception provided in Subsection (1)(c), after which it is the burden of the state to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the conviction or the adjudication is not subject to that exception.

(2) A Category I restricted person who intentionally or knowingly agrees, consents, offers, or arranges to purchase, transfer, possess, use, or have under the person's custody or control, or who intentionally or knowingly purchases, transfers, possesses, uses, or has under 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 intentionally or knowingly purchases, transfers, possesses, uses, or has under 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)]~~ (1)(b)(v) 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 24-3-103;

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

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

(iv) was transferred to a person not legally prohibited from possessing the weapon; and
(v) unless a different time is ordered by the court, was transferred within 10 days of the person becoming a restricted person.

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

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

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

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

(ii) a person described in Subsection (1)(a) and the transaction involves any dangerous weapon other than a firearm, and the transferor has knowledge that the recipient intends to use the weapon for any unlawful purpose, is guilty of a third degree felony;

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

(iv) a person described in Subsection (1)(b) and the transaction involves any dangerous weapon other than a firearm, and the transferor has knowledge that the recipient intends to use the weapon for any unlawful purpose, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) a class A misdemeanor if the transaction involved a dangerous weapon other than

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

[a firearm.]

Section 3. Section **76-10-532** is amended to read:

76-10-532. Removal from National Instant Check System database.

(1) A person who is subject to the restrictions in Subsection [~~76-10-503(1)(b)(v), (vi), or (vii)~~] 76-10-503(1)(b)(vi), (vii), or (viii), or 18 U.S.C. 922(d)(4) and (g)(4) based on a commitment, finding, or adjudication that occurred in this state may petition the district court in the county in which the commitment, finding, or adjudication occurred to remove the disability imposed.

(2) The petition shall be filed in the district court in the county where the commitment, finding, or adjudication occurred. The petition shall include:

(a) a listing of facilities, with their addresses, where the petitioner has ever received mental health treatment;

(b) a release signed by the petitioner to allow the prosecutor or county attorney to obtain the petitioner's mental health records;

(c) a verified report of a mental health evaluation conducted by a licensed psychiatrist occurring within 30 days prior to the filing of the petition, which shall include a statement regarding:

(i) the nature of the commitment, finding, or adjudication that resulted in the restriction on the petitioner's ability to purchase or possess a dangerous weapon;

(ii) the petitioner's previous and current mental health treatment;

(iii) the petitioner's previous violent behavior, if any;

(iv) the petitioner's current mental health medications and medication management;

(v) the length of time the petitioner has been stable;

(vi) external factors that may influence the petitioner's stability;

(vii) the ability of the petitioner to maintain stability with or without medication; and

(viii) whether the petitioner is dangerous to public safety; and

(d) a copy of the petitioner's state and federal criminal history record.

(3) The petitioner shall serve the petition on the prosecuting entity that prosecuted the case or, if the disability is not based on a criminal case, on the county or district attorney's office having jurisdiction where the petition was filed and the individual who filed the original action which resulted in the disability.

HB0507S03 compared with HB0507S02

(4) The court shall schedule a hearing as soon as practicable. The petitioner may present evidence and subpoena witnesses to appear at the hearing. The prosecuting, county attorney, or the individual who filed the original action which resulted in the disability may object to the petition and present evidence in support of the objection.

(5) The court shall consider the following evidence:

(a) the facts and circumstances that resulted in the commitment, finding, or adjudication;

(b) the person's mental health and criminal history records; and

(c) the person's reputation, including the testimony of character witnesses.

(6) The court shall grant the relief if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that:

(a) the person is not a danger to the person or to others;

(b) the person is not likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety; and

(c) the requested relief would not be contrary to the public interest.

(7) The court shall issue an order with its findings and send a copy to the bureau.

(8) The bureau, upon receipt of a court order removing a person's disability under Subsection [~~76-10-503(1)(b)(vii)~~] 76-10-503(1)(b)(viii), shall send a copy of the court order to the National Instant Check System requesting removal of the person's name from the database. In addition, if the person is listed in a state database utilized by the bureau to determine eligibility for the purchase or possession of a firearm or to obtain a concealed firearm permit, the bureau shall remove the petitioner's name or send a copy of the court's order to the agency responsible for the database for removal of the petitioner's name.

(9) If the court denies the petition, the petitioner may not petition again for relief until at least two years after the date of the court's final order.

(10) The petitioner may appeal a denial of the requested relief. The review on appeal shall be de novo.