



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Department of Criminal Justice Information Services

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Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Andrea J. Cabral
Secretary of Public Safety and Security

James F. Slater, III
Acting Commissioner

TO: All Massachusetts licensed firearms dealers
FR: Michaela Dunne, Director, Firearms Records Bureau
DT: August 19, 2014
RE: Changes to the Massachusetts firearms laws

On Wednesday, August 13, 2014, the Governor signed House Bill 4376, “An Act Relative to the Reduction of Gun Violence.” The full text of H4376 is available at <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2014/Chapter284>.

Included in this bill are several key changes to the firearms laws that will directly affect Massachusetts licensed firearms dealers. Those changes are as follows:

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- 1. Massachusetts firearms dealers are required to perform criminal offender record information (CORI) checks prior to hiring any person who has “direct and unmonitored” contact with firearms to determine the suitability of the employee. Further, dealers must run a CORI check on all current employees by no later than February 16, 2015.**

To obtain CORI checks, the licensee must first register as an employer on the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) iCORI system. To register, go to <https://icori.chs.state.ma.us> and follow the instructions. A fee of \$25 dollars will be charged for each name submitted for a CORI check.

Important: after you have registered in iCORI, you must call the DCJIS Legal Unit at 617.660.4760 to obtain the proper CORI access level, as provided by H4376.

- 2. Firearms license no longer needed for most individuals to purchase and possess pepper/self-defense spray.**

Firearms dealers may sell self-defense sprays to any person age 18 or over, unless otherwise disqualified. A firearms identification (FID) card or license to carry firearms (LTC) is not required for purchase. However, dealers should verify age with a valid form of identification.

Individuals between the ages of 15 and 18 must still have a valid firearms identification (FID) card to purchase self-defense spray.

Though a dealer is not required to determine whether or not a purchaser is disqualified from possessing self-defense spray, a licensee must not sell to any individual that he/she knows to be disqualified. There is no crime should a dealer sell self-defense spray to a disqualified individual.

3. Law enforcement officers are now exempt from the assault weapon and large capacity feeding device ban.

Active law enforcement officers may now purchase assault weapons and large capacity feeding devices. Firearms sold must still appear on the [Approved Firearms Roster](#), and officers must present proof of employment.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015

1. Firearms dealers must post and distribute with each purchase a notice providing information on suicide prevention.

This notice will be developed and provided by the division on violence and injury prevention within the Department of Public Health.

2. An “Olympic competition firearms” roster will be developed for firearms or pistols solely designed and sold for Olympic shooting competition.

3. Firearms licenses will remain valid after the expiration date of the license until the application for renewal is either approved or denied. However, the licensee must present a valid receipt from his/her local licensing authority showing that the renewal application was submitted prior to the expiration of the current license.

If you have any questions about these changes, please call the Firearms Records Bureau at 617.660.4782.