

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 357 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY DUSH, PHILLIPS-HILL, BARTOLOTTA, PENNYCUICK,  
ROTHMAN, KEEFER, GEBHARD, BROOKS, HUTCHINSON, YAW, STEFANO,  
ARGALL, J. WARD, COLEMAN AND LANGERHOLC, APRIL 4, 2025

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, APRIL 4, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses), 23 (Domestic  
2 Relations) and 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
3 Statutes, in inchoate crimes, further providing for the  
4 offense of possession of firearm or other dangerous weapon in  
5 court facility; in firearms and other dangerous articles,  
6 further providing for relinquishment of firearms and firearm  
7 licenses by convicted persons, repealing provisions relating  
8 to firearms not to be carried without a license and to  
9 carrying loaded weapons other than firearms, providing for  
10 license not required, further providing for prohibited  
11 conduct during emergency, repealing provisions relating to  
12 carrying firearms on public streets or public property in  
13 Philadelphia, providing for sportsman's firearm permit and  
14 further providing for licenses, for sale or transfer of  
15 firearms, for antique firearms and for proof of license and  
16 exception; in protection from abuse, further providing for  
17 relief; in hunting and furtaking, further providing for  
18 cooperation after lawfully killing big game; in protection of  
19 property and persons, further providing for loaded firearms  
20 in vehicles; and making editorial changes.

21 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

22 (1) The laws in existence regulating firearms licensing  
23 are ineffectual in preventing crime and only interfere with  
24 the natural rights of law-abiding citizens.

25 (2) It is necessary to codify the inherent right to the  
26 carrying of firearms, whether openly or concealed, and that

1 the right to self-defense is an inherent natural right that  
2 shall not be questioned as stated in section 21 of Article I  
3 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Sections 913(b)(3) and (e) and 6105.2(g)(1) of  
7 Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended  
8 to read:

9 § 913. Possession of firearm or other dangerous weapon in court  
10 facility.

11 \* \* \*

12 (b) Grading.--

13 \* \* \*

14 (3) An offense under subsection (a)(1) is a summary  
15 offense if the person is a peace officer as defined in  
16 section 501 (relating to definitions) and was carrying a  
17 firearm under section [6106(b) (relating to firearms not to  
18 be carried without a license) or] 6109 (relating to licenses)  
19 and failed to check the firearm under subsection (e) prior to  
20 entering the court facility.

21 \* \* \*

22 (e) Facilities for checking firearms or other dangerous  
23 weapons.--Each county shall make available at or within the  
24 building containing a court facility by July 1, 2002, lockers or  
25 similar facilities at no charge or cost for the temporary  
26 checking of firearms by peace officers as defined in section 501  
27 and persons carrying firearms under section [6106(b) or] 6109 or  
28 for the checking of other dangerous weapons that are not  
29 otherwise prohibited by law. Any individual checking a firearm,  
30 dangerous weapon or an item deemed to be a dangerous weapon at a

1 court facility must be issued a receipt. Notice of the location  
2 of the facility shall be posted as required under subsection  
3 (d).

4 \* \* \*

5 § 6105.2. Relinquishment of firearms and firearm licenses by  
6 convicted persons.

7 \* \* \*

8 (g) Relinquishment of licenses.--

9 (1) A person convicted of a crime resulting in a firearm  
10 disability pursuant to section 6105(c)(9) shall also  
11 relinquish to the sheriff any firearm license issued under  
12 section [6106 (relating to firearms not to be carried without  
13 a license) or] 6109 (relating to licenses) or 23 Pa.C.S. §  
14 6108.3 (relating to relinquishment to third party for  
15 safekeeping).

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 2. Sections 6106 and 6106.1 of Title 18 are  
18 repealed:

19 [§ 6106. Firearms not to be carried without a license.

20 (a) Offense defined.--

21 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any person who  
22 carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a  
23 firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place  
24 of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and  
25 lawfully issued license under this chapter commits a felony  
26 of the third degree.

27 (2) A person who is otherwise eligible to possess a  
28 valid license under this chapter but carries a firearm in any  
29 vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or  
30 about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place

1 of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license and  
2 has not committed any other criminal violation commits a  
3 misdemeanor of the first degree.

4 (b) Exceptions.--The provisions of subsection (a) shall not  
5 apply to:

6 (1) Constables, sheriffs, prison or jail wardens, or  
7 their deputies, policemen of this Commonwealth or its  
8 political subdivisions, or other law-enforcement officers.

9 (2) Members of the army, navy, marine corps, air force  
10 or coast guard of the United States or of the National Guard  
11 or organized reserves when on duty.

12 (3) The regularly enrolled members of any organization  
13 duly organized to purchase or receive such firearms from the  
14 United States or from this Commonwealth.

15 (4) Any persons engaged in target shooting with a  
16 firearm, if such persons are at or are going to or from their  
17 places of assembly or target practice and if, while going to  
18 or from their places of assembly or target practice, the  
19 firearm is not loaded.

20 (5) Officers or employees of the United States duly  
21 authorized to carry a concealed firearm.

22 (6) Agents, messengers and other employees of common  
23 carriers, banks, or business firms, whose duties require them  
24 to protect moneys, valuables and other property in the  
25 discharge of such duties.

26 (7) Any person engaged in the business of manufacturing,  
27 repairing, or dealing in firearms, or the agent or  
28 representative of any such person, having in his possession,  
29 using or carrying a firearm in the usual or ordinary course  
30 of such business.

1       (8) Any person while carrying a firearm which is not  
2 loaded and is in a secure wrapper from the place of purchase  
3 to his home or place of business, or to a place of repair,  
4 sale or appraisal or back to his home or place of business,  
5 or in moving from one place of abode or business to another  
6 or from his home to a vacation or recreational home or  
7 dwelling or back, or to recover stolen property under section  
8 6111.1(b) (4) (relating to Pennsylvania State Police), or to a  
9 place of instruction intended to teach the safe handling, use  
10 or maintenance of firearms or back or to a location to which  
11 the person has been directed to relinquish firearms under 23  
12 Pa.C.S. § 6108 (relating to relief) or back upon return of  
13 the relinquished firearm or to a licensed dealer's place of  
14 business for relinquishment pursuant to 23 Pa.C.S. § 6108.2  
15 (relating to relinquishment for consignment sale, lawful  
16 transfer or safekeeping) or back upon return of the  
17 relinquished firearm or to a location for safekeeping  
18 pursuant to 23 Pa.C.S. § 6108.3 (relating to relinquishment  
19 to third party for safekeeping) or back upon return of the  
20 relinquished firearm.

21       (9) Persons licensed to hunt, take furbearers or fish in  
22 this Commonwealth, if such persons are actually hunting,  
23 taking furbearers or fishing as permitted by such license, or  
24 are going to the places where they desire to hunt, take  
25 furbearers or fish or returning from such places.

26       (10) Persons training dogs, if such persons are actually  
27 training dogs during the regular training season.

28       (11) Any person while carrying a firearm in any vehicle,  
29 which person possesses a valid and lawfully issued license  
30 for that firearm which has been issued under the laws of the

1 United States or any other state.

2 (12) A person who has a lawfully issued license to carry  
3 a firearm pursuant to section 6109 (relating to licenses) and  
4 that said license expired within six months prior to the date  
5 of arrest and that the individual is otherwise eligible for  
6 renewal of the license.

7 (13) Any person who is otherwise eligible to possess a  
8 firearm under this chapter and who is operating a motor  
9 vehicle which is registered in the person's name or the name  
10 of a spouse or parent and which contains a firearm for which  
11 a valid license has been issued pursuant to section 6109 to  
12 the spouse or parent owning the firearm.

13 (14) A person lawfully engaged in the interstate  
14 transportation of a firearm as defined under 18 U.S.C. §  
15 921(a)(3) (relating to definitions) in compliance with 18  
16 U.S.C. § 926A (relating to interstate transportation of  
17 firearms).

18 (15) Any person who possesses a valid and lawfully  
19 issued license or permit to carry a firearm which has been  
20 issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether  
21 a reciprocity agreement exists between the Commonwealth and  
22 the state under section 6109(k), provided:

23 (i) The state provides a reciprocal privilege for  
24 individuals licensed to carry firearms under section  
25 6109.

26 (ii) The Attorney General has determined that the  
27 firearm laws of the state are similar to the firearm laws  
28 of this Commonwealth.

29 (16) Any person holding a license in accordance with  
30 section 6109(f)(3).

1 (c) Sportsman's firearm permit.--

2 (1) Before any exception shall be granted under  
3 paragraph (b) (9) or (10) of this section to any person 18  
4 years of age or older licensed to hunt, trap or fish or who  
5 has been issued a permit relating to hunting dogs, such  
6 person shall, at the time of securing his hunting, furtaking  
7 or fishing license or any time after such license has been  
8 issued, secure a sportsman's firearm permit from the county  
9 treasurer. The sportsman's firearm permit shall be issued  
10 immediately and be valid throughout this Commonwealth for a  
11 period of five years from the date of issue for any legal  
12 firearm, when carried in conjunction with a valid hunting,  
13 furtaking or fishing license or permit relating to hunting  
14 dogs. The sportsman's firearm permit shall be in triplicate  
15 on a form to be furnished by the Pennsylvania State Police.  
16 The original permit shall be delivered to the person, and the  
17 first copy thereof, within seven days, shall be forwarded to  
18 the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police by the  
19 county treasurer. The second copy shall be retained by the  
20 county treasurer for a period of two years from the date of  
21 expiration. The county treasurer shall be entitled to collect  
22 a fee of not more than \$6 for each such permit issued, which  
23 shall include the cost of any official form. The Pennsylvania  
24 State Police may recover from the county treasurer the cost  
25 of any such form, but may not charge more than \$1 for each  
26 official permit form furnished to the county treasurer.

27 (2) Any person who sells or attempts to sell a  
28 sportsman's firearm permit for a fee in excess of that amount  
29 fixed under this subsection commits a summary offense.

30 (d) Revocation of registration.--Any registration of a

1 firearm under subsection (c) of this section may be revoked by  
2 the county treasurer who issued it, upon written notice to the  
3 holder thereof.

4 (e) Definitions.--

5 (1) For purposes of subsection (b)(3), (4), (5), (7) and  
6 (8), the term "firearm" shall include any weapon which is  
7 designed to or may readily be converted to expel any  
8 projectile by the action of an explosive or the frame or  
9 receiver of the weapon.

10 (2) As used in this section, the phrase "place of  
11 instruction" shall include any hunting club, rifle club,  
12 rifle range, pistol range, shooting range, the premises of a  
13 licensed firearms dealer or a lawful gun show or meet.

14 § 6106.1. Carrying loaded weapons other than firearms.

15 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in Title 34 (relating  
16 to game), no person shall carry a loaded pistol, revolver,  
17 shotgun or rifle, other than a firearm as defined in section  
18 6102 (relating to definitions), in any vehicle. The provisions  
19 of this section shall not apply to persons excepted from the  
20 requirement of a license to carry firearms under section 6106(b)  
21 (1), (2), (5) or (6) (relating to firearms not to be carried  
22 without a license) nor shall the provisions of this section be  
23 construed to permit persons to carry firearms in a vehicle where  
24 such conduct is prohibited by section 6106.

25 (b) Penalty.--A person who violates the provisions of this  
26 section commits a summary offense.]

27 Section 3. Title 18 is amended by adding a section to read:

28 § 6106.2. License not required.

29 (a) Declaration.--Except when engaging in an activity  
30 regulated by 34 Pa.C.S. (relating to game), every person present



in this Commonwealth who is not prohibited from possessing  
firearms under Federal law or the laws of this Commonwealth  
shall have an affirmative, fundamental and constitutional right  
to keep and bear firearms, including the right to carry openly  
or concealed, carry loaded or unloaded, train with, transport,  
possess, use, acquire, purchase, transfer, inherit, buy, sell,  
give or otherwise dispose of or receive any firearm without a  
license to carry a firearm of any kind from this Commonwealth or  
any of its political subdivisions.

(b) Optional license.--Obtaining a license to carry a  
firearm under this chapter shall be optional. The voluntary  
nature of the license shall not be construed to require that any  
person obtain a license to carry a firearm under this chapter.

(c) Firearm.--As used in this section only, the term  
"firearm" shall include any weapon which is designed to or may  
readily be converted to expel any projectile by the action of an  
explosive or the frame or receiver of the weapon.

Section 4. Section 6107 of Title 18 is amended to read:

§ 6107. Prohibited conduct during emergency.

[(a) General rule.--No person shall carry a firearm upon the  
public streets or upon any public property during an emergency  
proclaimed by a State or municipal governmental executive unless  
that person is:

(1) Actively engaged in a defense of that person's life  
or property from peril or threat.

(2) Licensed to carry firearms under section 6109  
(relating to licenses) or is exempt from licensing under  
section 6106(b) (relating to firearms not to be carried  
without a license).]

(b) Seizure, taking and confiscation.--[Except as otherwise

provided under subsection (a) and notwithstanding]

Notwithstanding the provisions of 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 73 (relating to Commonwealth services) or any other provision of law to the contrary, no firearm, accessory or ammunition may be seized, taken or confiscated during an emergency unless the seizure, taking or confiscation would be authorized absent the emergency.

(c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Accessory." Any scope, sight, bipod, sling, light, magazine, clip or other related item that is attached to or necessary for the operation of a firearm.

"Firearm." The term includes any weapon that is designed to or may readily be converted to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive or the frame or receiver of any weapon.

Section 5. Section 6108 of Title 18 is repealed:

[§ 6108. Carrying firearms on public streets or public property in Philadelphia.

No person shall carry a firearm, rifle or shotgun at any time upon the public streets or upon any public property in a city of the first class unless:

(1) such person is licensed to carry a firearm; or

(2) such person is exempt from licensing under section 6106(b) of this title (relating to firearms not to be carried without a license).]

Section 6. Title 18 is amended by adding a section to read:

§ 6108.1. Sportsman's firearm permit.

(a) Purpose.--The purpose of this section is to allow a person to carry a firearm for the purpose of self-defense while the person is engaged in an activity regulated by 34 Pa.C.S.

1 (relating to game).

2 (b) Permit allowed.--Any person 18 years of age or older who  
3 has been issued a hunting license, trapping license or fishing  
4 license or who has been issued a permit relating to hunting dogs  
5 may, at the time of obtaining a hunting, trapping or fishing  
6 license or any time after the license has been issued, obtain a  
7 sportsman's firearm permit from the county treasurer.

8 (c) Issuance.--The sportsman's firearm permit shall be  
9 issued immediately and shall be valid throughout this  
10 Commonwealth for a period of five years from the date of issue  
11 for any legal firearm when carried in conjunction with a valid  
12 hunting, furtaking or fishing license or permit relating to  
13 hunting dogs.

14 (d) Form.--The sportsman's firearm permit shall be in  
15 triplicate on a form to be furnished by the Pennsylvania State  
16 Police. The original permit shall be delivered to the person,  
17 and a copy of the permit shall be forwarded to the Commissioner  
18 of Pennsylvania State Police by the county treasurer within  
19 seven days of the date of delivery. A copy of the permit shall  
20 be retained by the county treasurer for a period of two years  
21 from the date of expiration.

22 (e) Fee.--The county treasurer may collect a fee of not more  
23 than \$6 for each permit issued, which shall include the cost of  
24 any official form. The Pennsylvania State Police may recover  
25 from the county treasurer the cost of the form, but may not  
26 charge more than \$1 for each official permit form furnished to  
27 the county treasurer.

28 (f) Offense.--A person who sells or attempts to sell a  
29 sportsman's firearm permit for a fee in excess of the amount  
30 determined under this section commits a summary offense.

1 Section 7. Sections 6109(a), (b), (c), (d) heading,  
2 introductory paragraph and (3), (e)(1) introductory paragraph,  
3 (i), (v) and (vii), (3)(ii) and (4), (f)(2) and (4), (g), (h)(3)  
4 and (4), (i.1) heading and (1), (j) and (m.1)(1) introductory  
5 paragraph and (ii), (2), (3), (4), (7) and (9), 6111(f)(3),  
6 6118(b) and 6122 of Title 18 are amended to read:

7 § 6109. Licenses.

8 (a) Purpose of license.--[A license to carry a firearm shall  
9 be for the purpose of carrying a firearm concealed on or about  
10 one's person or in a vehicle throughout this Commonwealth.]

11 (1) Due to every person present in this Commonwealth  
12 having a fundamental constitutional right to keep and bear  
13 arms, obtaining a license under this section shall be  
14 optional. Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
15 require that a person must obtain a license under this  
16 section in order to carry a concealed firearm.

17 (2) The voluntary nature of a license to carry a firearm  
18 may not be construed to relieve the issuing authority of the  
19 burden of proof for denying an application for a license.

20 (3) A license to carry a firearm shall be available to  
21 those who wish to carry a firearm openly or concealed on or  
22 about one's person or in a vehicle and shall be valid  
23 throughout this Commonwealth.

24 (4) A license to carry a firearm shall provide a person  
25 with the ability to carry a firearm in any state with which  
26 the Commonwealth maintains a reciprocal agreement for the  
27 mutual recognition of licenses to carry firearms.

28 (b) Place of application.--An individual who is 21 years of  
29 age or older may apply to [a sheriff] the proper issuing  
30 authority for a license to carry a firearm [concealed on or

1 about his person or in a vehicle] within this Commonwealth. If  
2 the applicant is a resident of this Commonwealth, he shall make  
3 application with the sheriff of the county in which he resides  
4 or, if a resident of a city of the first class, with the chief  
5 of police of that city. If the applicant is not a resident of  
6 this Commonwealth, he shall make application with the proper  
7 issuing authority of any county.

8 (c) Form of application and content.--The application and  
9 process for a license to carry a firearm shall be uniform  
10 throughout this Commonwealth and shall be on a form prescribed  
11 by the Pennsylvania State Police. The form may contain  
12 provisions, not exceeding one page, to assure compliance with  
13 this section. Issuing authorities shall use only the application  
14 form prescribed by the Pennsylvania State Police. One of the  
15 following reasons for obtaining a firearm license shall be set  
16 forth in the application: self-defense, employment, hunting and  
17 fishing, target shooting, gun collecting or another proper  
18 reason. The application form shall be dated and signed by the  
19 applicant and shall contain the following statement:

20 I have never been convicted of a crime that prohibits me  
21 from possessing or acquiring a firearm under Federal or  
22 State law. I am of sound mind and have never been  
23 involuntarily committed to a mental institution. In the  
24 alternative my right to possess a firearm has been  
25 legally restored. I hereby certify that the statements  
26 contained herein are true and correct to the best of my  
27 knowledge and belief. I understand that, if I knowingly  
28 make any false statements herein, I am subject to  
29 penalties prescribed by law. I authorize the [sheriff, or  
30 his designee, or, in the case of first class cities, the

1 chief or head of the police department] issuing  
2 authority, or his designee, to inspect only those records  
3 or documents relevant to information required for this  
4 application. If I am issued a license and knowingly  
5 become ineligible to legally possess or acquire firearms,  
6 I will promptly notify the [sheriff of the county in  
7 which I reside or, if I reside in a city of the first  
8 class, the chief of police of that city] issuing  
9 authority.

10 (d) [Sheriff to conduct] Pre-issuance investigation.--The  
11 [sheriff] issuing authority to whom the application is made  
12 shall:

13 \* \* \*

14 [(3) investigate whether the applicant's character and  
15 reputation are such that the applicant will not be likely to  
16 act in a manner dangerous to public safety;]

17 \* \* \*

18 (e) Issuance of license.--

19 (1) A license to carry a firearm shall be [for the  
20 purpose of carrying a firearm concealed on or about one's  
21 person or in a vehicle and shall be issued if,] issued after  
22 an investigation not to exceed [45] 14 calendar days, [it  
23 appears that the applicant is an individual concerning whom  
24 no] unless good cause exists to deny the license. A license  
25 shall not be issued to any of the following:

26 [(i) An individual whose character and reputation is  
27 such that the individual would be likely to act in a  
28 manner dangerous to public safety.]

29 \* \* \*

30 (v) An individual who is not of sound mind or who

1 has ever been involuntarily committed to a mental  
2 institution[.], unless the involuntary commitment has  
3 been expunged, vacated or granted relief from a  
4 prohibition to possess a firearm.

5 \* \* \*

6 [(vii) An individual who is a habitual drunkard.]

7 \* \* \*

8 (3) The license to carry a firearm shall be designed to  
9 be uniform throughout this Commonwealth and shall be in a  
10 form prescribed by the Pennsylvania State Police. The license  
11 shall bear the following:

12 \* \* \*

13 (ii) The signature of the [sheriff] authority  
14 issuing the license.

15 \* \* \*

16 (4) The [sheriff] issuing authority shall require a  
17 photograph of the licensee on the license. The photograph  
18 shall be in a form compatible with the Commonwealth Photo  
19 Imaging Network.

20 \* \* \*

21 (f) Term of license.--

22 \* \* \*

23 (2) At least 60 days prior to the expiration of each  
24 license, the issuing [sheriff] authority shall send to the  
25 licensee an application for renewal of license. Failure to  
26 receive a renewal application shall not relieve a licensee  
27 from the responsibility to renew the license.

28 \* \* \*

29 [(4) Possession of a license, together with a copy of  
30 the person's military orders showing the dates of overseas

1 deployment, including the date that the overseas deployment  
2 ends, shall constitute, during the extension period specified  
3 in paragraph (3), a defense to any charge filed pursuant to  
4 section 6106 (relating to firearms not to be carried without  
5 a license) or 6108 (relating to carrying firearms on public  
6 streets or public property in Philadelphia).]

7 (g) Grant or denial of license.--Upon the receipt of an  
8 application for a license to carry a firearm, the [sheriff]  
9 issuing authority shall, within [45] 14 calendar days, issue or  
10 refuse to issue a license on the basis of the investigation  
11 under subsection (d) and the accuracy of the information  
12 contained in the application. If the [sheriff] issuing authority  
13 refuses to issue a license, the [sheriff] issuing authority  
14 shall notify the applicant in writing of the refusal and the  
15 specific reasons. The notice shall be sent by certified mail to  
16 the applicant at the address set forth in the application.

17 (h) Fee.--

18 \* \* \*

19 (3) An additional fee of \$1 shall be paid by the  
20 applicant for a license to carry a firearm and shall be  
21 remitted by the [sheriff] issuing authority to the Firearms  
22 License Validation System Account, which is hereby  
23 established as a special restricted receipt account within  
24 the General Fund of the State Treasury. The account shall be  
25 used for purposes under subsection (1). Moneys credited to  
26 the account and any investment income accrued are hereby  
27 appropriated on a continuing basis to the Pennsylvania State  
28 Police.

29 (4) No fee other than that provided by this subsection  
30 or the Sheriff Fee Act may be assessed by the [sheriff]



1     issuing authority for the performance of any background check  
2     made pursuant to this act.

3             \* \* \*

4     (i.1) Notice to [sheriff] issuing authority.--

5     Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary:

6             (1) Upon conviction of a person for a crime specified in  
7     section 6105(a) or (b) or upon conviction of a person for a  
8     crime punishable by imprisonment exceeding one year or upon a  
9     determination that the conduct of a person meets the criteria  
10    specified in section 6105(c)(1), (2), (3), (5), (6) or (9),  
11    the court shall determine if the defendant has a license to  
12    carry firearms issued pursuant to this section. If the  
13    defendant has such a license, the court shall notify the  
14    [sheriff of the county in which that person resides] issuing  
15    authority, on a form developed by the Pennsylvania State  
16    Police, of the identity of the person and the nature of the  
17    crime or conduct which resulted in the notification. The  
18    notification shall be transmitted by the judge within seven  
19    days of the conviction or determination.

20             \* \* \*

21     (j) Immunity.--[A sheriff] An issuing authority who complies  
22    in good faith with this section shall be immune from liability  
23    resulting or arising from the action or misconduct with a  
24    firearm committed by any individual to whom a license to carry a  
25    firearm has been issued.

26             \* \* \*

27     (m.1) Temporary emergency licenses.--

28             (1) A person seeking a temporary emergency license to  
29    carry a concealed firearm shall submit to the [sheriff]  
30    issuing authority of the county in which the person resides

1 all of the following:

2 \* \* \*

3 (ii) A sworn affidavit that contains the information  
4 required on an application for a license to carry a  
5 firearm and attesting that the person is 21 years of age  
6 or older, is not prohibited from owning firearms under  
7 section 6105 [(relating to persons not to possess, use,  
8 manufacture, control, sell or transfer firearms)] or any  
9 other Federal or State law and is not currently subject  
10 to a protection from abuse order or a protection order  
11 issued by a court of another state.

12 \* \* \*

13 (2) Upon receipt of the items required under paragraph  
14 (1), the [sheriff] issuing authority immediately shall  
15 conduct a criminal history, juvenile delinquency and mental  
16 health record check of the applicant pursuant to section  
17 6105. Immediately upon receipt of the results of the records  
18 check, the [sheriff] issuing authority shall review the  
19 information and shall determine whether the applicant meets  
20 the criteria set forth in this subsection. If the [sheriff]  
21 issuing authority determines that the applicant has met all  
22 of the criteria, the [sheriff] issuing authority shall  
23 immediately issue the applicant a temporary emergency license  
24 to carry a concealed firearm.

25 (3) If the [sheriff] issuing authority refuses to issue  
26 a temporary emergency license, the [sheriff] issuing  
27 authority shall specify the grounds for the denial in a  
28 written notice to the applicant. The applicant may appeal the  
29 denial or challenge criminal records check results that were  
30 the basis of the denial, if applicable, in the same manner as

1 a denial of a license to carry a firearm under this section.

2 (4) A temporary emergency license issued under this  
3 subsection shall be valid for [45] 14 days and may not be  
4 renewed. A person who has been issued a temporary emergency  
5 license under this subsection shall not be issued another  
6 temporary emergency license unless at least five years have  
7 expired since the issuance of the prior temporary emergency  
8 license. During the [45] 14 days the temporary emergency  
9 license is valid, the [sheriff] issuing authority shall  
10 conduct an additional investigation of the person for the  
11 purposes of determining whether the person may be issued a  
12 license pursuant to this section. If, during the course of  
13 this investigation, the [sheriff] issuing authority discovers  
14 any information that would have prohibited the issuance of a  
15 license pursuant to this section, the [sheriff] issuing  
16 authority shall be authorized to revoke the temporary  
17 emergency license as provided in subsection (i).

18 \* \* \*

19 (7) [A sheriff] An issuing authority who issues a  
20 temporary emergency license to carry a firearm shall retain,  
21 for the entire period during which the temporary emergency  
22 license is in effect, the evidence of imminent danger that  
23 the applicant submitted to the [sheriff] issuing authority  
24 that was the basis for the license, or a copy of the  
25 evidence, as appropriate.

26 \* \* \*

27 (9) Prior to the expiration of a temporary emergency  
28 license, if the [sheriff] issuing authority has determined  
29 pursuant to investigation that the person issued a temporary  
30 emergency license is not disqualified and if the temporary

1 emergency license has not been revoked pursuant to subsection  
2 (i), the [sheriff] issuing authority shall issue a license  
3 pursuant to this section that is effective for the balance of  
4 the five-year period from the date of the issuance of the  
5 temporary emergency license. Records and all other  
6 information, duties and obligations regarding such licenses  
7 shall be applicable as otherwise provided in this section.

8 \* \* \*

9 § 6111. Sale or transfer of firearms.

10 \* \* \*

11 (f) Application of section.--

12 \* \* \*

13 (3) The provisions contained in subsection (a) shall not  
14 apply to [any law enforcement officer] a peace officer, as  
15 defined in section 501 (relating to definitions) and  
16 including an officer or employee of the United States duly  
17 authorized to carry a concealed firearm, whose current  
18 identification as a law enforcement officer shall be  
19 construed as a valid license to carry a firearm or any person  
20 who possesses a valid license to carry a firearm under  
21 section 6109 (relating to licenses).

22 \* \* \*

23 § 6118. Antique firearms.

24 \* \* \*

25 (b) Exception.--Subsection (a) shall not apply [to the  
26 extent that such antique firearms, reproductions or replicas of  
27 firearms are concealed weapons as provided in section 6106  
28 (relating to firearms not be carried without a license), nor  
29 shall it apply] to the provisions of section 6105 (relating to  
30 persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or

transfer firearms) if such antique firearms, reproductions or replicas of firearms are suitable for use.

\* \* \*

§ 6122. Proof of license and exception.

(a) General rule.--[When] Except as provided in subsection (b), when carrying a firearm [concealed] as prohibited by 34 Pa.C.S. (relating to game) and only permissible with a license issued under section 6108.1 (relating to sportsman's firearm permit) on or about one's person or in a vehicle, an individual licensed to carry a firearm shall, upon lawful demand of a law enforcement officer, produce the license for inspection. Failure to produce [such] the license either at the time of arrest or at the preliminary hearing shall create a rebuttable presumption of nonlicensure.

(b) Exception.--[An]

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), an individual carrying a firearm on or about [his] the individual's person or in a vehicle and claiming an exception [under section 6106(b) (relating to firearms not to be carried without a license)] regarding a separate license for the firearm shall, upon lawful demand of a law enforcement officer, produce satisfactory evidence of qualification for exception.

(2) This subsection applies to the following:

(i) A constable, sheriff, prison or jail warden, or a deputy of the constable, sheriff or prison or jail wardens, a policeman of this Commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions or any other law enforcement officer.

(ii) A member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard of the United States or of the

1 National Guard or organized reserves when on duty.

2 (iii) The regularly enrolled member of an  
3 organization duly organized to purchase or receive  
4 firearms from the United States or from this  
5 Commonwealth.

6 (iv) A person engaged in target shooting with a  
7 firearm, if the person is at or is going to or from the  
8 place of assembly or target practice and if, while going  
9 to or from the place of assembly or target practice, the  
10 firearm is not loaded.

11 (v) An officer or employee of the United States duly  
12 authorized to carry a concealed firearm.

13 (vi) An agent, messenger or other employee of a  
14 common carrier, bank or business firm, whose duties  
15 require the protection of money, valuables and other  
16 property in the discharge of duties.

17 (vii) A person engaged in the business of  
18 manufacturing, repairing or dealing in firearms, or the  
19 agent or representative of the person, having in the  
20 person's possession, using or carrying a firearm in the  
21 usual or ordinary course of the business.

22 (viii) A person while carrying a firearm which is  
23 not loaded and is in a secure wrapper from the place of  
24 purchase to the person's home or place of business, or to  
25 a place of repair, sale or appraisal or back to the  
26 person's home or place of business, or in moving from one  
27 place of abode or business to another or from the  
28 person's home to a vacation or recreational home or  
29 dwelling or back, or to recover stolen property under  
30 section 6111.1(b)(4) (relating to Pennsylvania State

1 Police), or to a place of instruction intended to teach  
2 the safe handling, use or maintenance of firearms or back  
3 or to a location to which the person has been directed to  
4 relinquish firearms under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6108 (relating to  
5 relief) or back upon return of the relinquished firearm  
6 or to a licensed dealer's place of business for  
7 relinquishment in accordance with 23 Pa.C.S. § 6108.2  
8 (relating to relinquishment for consignment sale, lawful  
9 transfer or safekeeping) or back upon return of the  
10 relinquished firearm or to a location for safekeeping in  
11 accordance with 23 Pa.C.S. § 6108.3 (relating to  
12 relinquishment to third party for safekeeping) or back  
13 upon return of the relinquished firearm.

14 (ix) A person licensed to hunt, take furbearers or  
15 fish in this Commonwealth, if the person is actually  
16 hunting, taking furbearers or fishing as permitted by the  
17 license, or is going to the place where the person  
18 desires to hunt, take furbearers or fish or returning  
19 from the place.

20 (x) A person training dogs, if the person is  
21 actually training dogs during the regular training  
22 season.

23 (xi) A person while carrying a firearm in a vehicle,  
24 which person possesses a valid and lawfully issued  
25 license for that firearm which has been issued under the  
26 laws of the United States or any other state.

27 (xii) A person who has a lawfully issued license to  
28 carry a firearm in accordance with section 6109 and that  
29 license expired within six months prior to the date of  
30 arrest and that the individual is otherwise eligible for

1 renewal of the license.

2 (xiii) A person who is otherwise eligible to possess  
3 a firearm under this chapter and who is operating a motor  
4 vehicle which is registered in the person's name or the  
5 name of a spouse or parent and which contains a firearm  
6 for which a valid license has been issued in accordance  
7 with section 6109 to the spouse or parent owning the  
8 firearm.

9 (xiv) A person lawfully engaged in the interstate  
10 transportation of a firearm as defined under 18 U.S.C. §  
11 921(a)(3) (relating to definitions) in compliance with 18  
12 U.S.C. § 926A (relating to interstate transportation of  
13 firearms).

14 (xv) A person who possesses a valid and lawfully  
15 issued license or permit to carry a firearm which has  
16 been issued under the laws of another state, regardless  
17 of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the  
18 Commonwealth and the state under section 6109(k),  
19 provided:

20 (A) The state provides a reciprocal privilege  
21 for individuals licensed to carry firearms under  
22 section 6109.

23 (B) The Attorney General has determined that the  
24 firearm laws of the state are similar to the firearm  
25 laws of this Commonwealth.

26 (xvi) A person holding a license in accordance with  
27 section 6109(f)(3).

28 (3) As follows:

29 (i) For purposes of paragraph (2)(iii), (iv), (v),  
30 (vii) and (viii), the term "firearm" includes a weapon



1       that is designed to or may readily be converted to expel  
2       a projectile by the action of an explosive or the frame  
3       or receiver of the weapon.

4       (ii) For purposes of paragraph (2), the phrase  
5       "place of instruction" includes a hunting club, rifle  
6       club, rifle range, pistol range, shooting range, the  
7       premises of a licensed firearms dealer or a lawful gun  
8       show or meet.

9       Section 8. Section 6108(a)(7) introductory paragraph of  
10 Title 23 is amended to read:

11 § 6108. Relief.

12       (a) General rule.--Subject to subsection (a.1), the court  
13 may grant any protection order or approve any consent agreement  
14 to bring about a cessation of abuse of the plaintiff or minor  
15 children. The order or agreement may include:

16       \* \* \*

17       (7) Prohibiting the defendant from acquiring or  
18 possessing any firearm for the duration of the order,  
19 ordering the defendant to temporarily relinquish to the  
20 sheriff or the appropriate law enforcement agency any  
21 firearms under the defendant's possession or control, and  
22 requiring the defendant to relinquish to the sheriff or the  
23 appropriate law enforcement agency any firearm license issued  
24 under section 6108.3 (relating to relinquishment to third  
25 party for safekeeping) or 18 Pa.C.S. § [6106 (relating to  
26 firearms not to be carried without a license) or] 6108.1  
27 (relating to sportsman's firearm permit) or 6109 (relating to  
28 licenses the defendant may possess. The court may also order  
29 the defendant to relinquish the defendant's other weapons or  
30 ammunition that have been used or been threatened to be used

1 in an incident of abuse against the plaintiff or the minor  
2 children. A copy of the court's order shall be transmitted to  
3 the chief or head of the appropriate law enforcement agency  
4 and to the sheriff of the county of which the defendant is a  
5 resident. When relinquishment is ordered, the following shall  
6 apply:

7 \* \* \*

8 Section 9. Sections 2325(a.1), 2503(b)(3) and 2525(a) of  
9 Title 34 are amended to read:

10 § 2325. Cooperation after lawfully killing big game.

11 \* \* \*

12 (a.1) Exception.--Nothing in this section shall prohibit any  
13 person from carrying a loaded handgun in the field provided that  
14 person is in compliance with 18 Pa.C.S. § [6109 (relating to  
15 licenses)] 6108.1 (relating to sportsman's firearm permit).

16 \* \* \*

17 § 2503. Loaded firearms in vehicles.

18 \* \* \*

19 (b) Exceptions.--This section shall not be construed to  
20 apply to:

21 \* \* \*

22 (3) A person carrying a loaded pistol or revolver when  
23 in possession of a valid firearms license issued by the chief  
24 or head of any police force or the sheriff of a county when  
25 the license is issued for protection under 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61  
26 Subch. A (relating to Uniform Firearms Act) or issued under  
27 18 Pa.C.S. § 6108.1 (relating to sportsman's firearm permit).

28 \* \* \*

29 § 2525. Possession of firearm for protection of self or others.

30 (a) General rule.--It is lawful for a law enforcement

1 officer or any person who possesses a valid license to carry a  
2 firearm issued under 18 Pa.C.S. § [6109 (relating to licenses)]  
3 6108.1 (relating to sportsman's firearm permit) to be in  
4 possession of a loaded or unloaded firearm while engaged in any  
5 activity regulated by this title.

6 \* \* \*

7 Section 10. This act shall take effect in 60 days.