

HOUSE BILL 2785

By Holt

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13; Title 40; Title 42 and Title 64, relative to carrying handguns.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) No unauthorized person shall enter the restricted access area of a commercial service airport, in or beyond the airport security screening checkpoint, knowingly possessing a handgun or knowingly having a handgun under the person's control. Such area shall not include an airport drive, general parking area, walkway, shop, or areas of an airport terminal that are outside the screening checkpoint and that are normally open to unscreened passengers or visitors to the airport. Any restricted access area must be clearly indicated by prominent signs indicating that weapons are prohibited in the area. It is not an offense for a person authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to the laws of this state or federal law to carry a handgun in an airport drive, general parking area, walkway, shop, or other area of an airport terminal that is outside the screening checkpoint and that is normally open to unscreened passengers or visitors to the airport.

(b) A person not authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to the laws of this state or federal law who violates subsection (a) commits a Class B misdemeanor. A person authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to the laws of this state or federal law who violates subsection (a) commits a Class C misdemeanor; provided, however, that a person authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to the laws of this state or federal law

commits no offense who, after receiving notification at the screening checkpoint for the restricted access area that the person is in possession of a weapon, immediately leaves the restricted access area following such notification and the completion of any federally required transportation security screening procedures.

(c) It is not an offense for any person authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to the laws of this state or federal law to possess or carry a handgun while on the premises of, or as a passenger on any train, streetcar, bus, or other vehicle owned or operated by a public transportation authority of this state or a political subdivision of this state, or operated by any private entity that provides public transportation pursuant to an agreement with this state or a political subdivision of this state.

(d)

(1) Any ordinance, resolution, regulation, or policy of any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state that conflicts with this section shall be void and of no force and effect.

(2) Notwithstanding § 39-17-1359 to the contrary, any sign, posting, or other notification that conflicts with this section shall be void and of no force and effect.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.