

An Act

SENATE BILL 24-131

BY SENATOR(S) Jaquez Lewis and Kolker, Cutter, Fields, Sullivan, Gonzales;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Brown and Lindsay, Froelich, Amabile, Bacon, Boesenecker, Daugherty, deGruy Kennedy, Garcia, Hamrick, Hernandez, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lindstedt, Marvin, McCormick, Parenti, Ricks, Rutinel, Sirota, Story, Valdez, Weissman, Willford, Woodrow.

CONCERNING PROHIBITING CARRYING A FIREARM IN SENSITIVE SPACES
RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT AS PLACES AT
WHICH LONGSTANDING LAWS PROHIBITED CARRYING FIREARMS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(a) The second amendment to the United States constitution protects the right of persons to keep and bear arms, and the supreme court of the United States has held that states may, consistent with the second amendment, regulate carrying firearms in sensitive places;

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(b) Colorado currently regulates carrying firearms in specified sensitive places, including certain government buildings, schools, and public transportation facilities;

(c) The sensitive spaces described in this act are places where children and other members of the public congregate; and

(d) The sensitive spaces described in this act are sensitive places at which the state can regulate carrying firearms consistent with the second amendment.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 18-12-105.3 as follows:

18-12-105.3. Unlawful carrying of a firearm in government buildings - penalty - definitions. (1) A PERSON SHALL NOT KNOWINGLY CARRY A FIREARM, WHETHER LOADED OR NOT LOADED, IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS, INCLUDING THEIR ADJACENT PARKING AREAS:

(a) ON THE PROPERTY OF OR WITHIN ANY BUILDING IN WHICH:

(I) THE CHAMBERS, GALLERIES, OR OFFICES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF, ARE LOCATED;

(II) A LEGISLATIVE HEARING OR MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS BEING CONDUCTED; OR

(III) THE OFFICIAL OFFICE OF ANY MEMBER, OFFICER, OR EMPLOYEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS LOCATED;

(b) UNLESS PERMITTED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS SECTION, ON THE PROPERTY OR WITHIN ANY BUILDING IN WHICH:

(I) THE CHAMBERS OR GALLERIES OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S GOVERNING BODY ARE LOCATED;

(II) A MEETING OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S GOVERNING BODY IS BEING CONDUCTED; OR

(III) THE OFFICIAL OFFICE OF ANY ELECTED MEMBER OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S GOVERNING BODY OR OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS LOCATED; OR

(c) A COURTHOUSE OR ANY OTHER BUILDING OR PORTION OF A BUILDING USED FOR COURT PROCEEDINGS.

(2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

(a) A PEACE OFFICER CARRYING A FIREARM PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN SECTION 16-2.5-101 (2);

(b) A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES OR COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD WHEN ENGAGED IN THE LAWFUL DISCHARGE OF THE MEMBER'S OFFICIAL DUTIES;

(c) SECURITY PERSONNEL EMPLOYED OR RETAINED BY AN ENTITY THAT CONTROLS OR OPERATES A PLACE DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION AND SECURITY PERSONNEL DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-33.5-216.7 (5) WHILE ENGAGED IN THE SECURITY PERSONNEL'S OFFICIAL DUTIES;

(d) LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, DEFENSE COUNSEL PERSONNEL, AND COURT PERSONNEL CARRYING OR POSSESSING A FIREARM IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES AS PART OF THE LAWFUL AND COMMON PRACTICES OF A LEGAL PROCEEDING; AND

(e) A PERSON WHO HOLDS A VALID PERMIT TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN OR A TEMPORARY EMERGENCY PERMIT ISSUED PURSUANT TO PART 2 OF THIS ARTICLE 12 WHO IS CARRYING A CONCEALED HANDGUN IN THE ADJACENT PARKING AREA OF A LOCATION LISTED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

(2.3) (a) ON AND BEFORE JANUARY 4, 2025, SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (2.3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 5, 2025.

(3) A PERSON COMMITS UNLAWFUL CARRYING OF A FIREARM IN A GOVERNMENT BUILDING IF THE PERSON VIOLATES SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS

SECTION. UNLAWFUL CARRYING OF A FIREARM IN A GOVERNMENT BUILDING IS A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR.

(4) (a) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM ENACTING AN ORDINANCE, REGULATION, OR OTHER LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-12-214 OR 29-11.7-104 THAT PROHIBITS A PERSON FROM CARRYING A FIREARM IN A SPECIFIED PLACE.

(b) A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY ENACT AN ORDINANCE, REGULATION, OR OTHER LAW THAT PERMITS A PERSON TO CARRY A FIREARM AT PLACE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

(5) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PROHIBITS A PERSON FROM SECURELY STORING A FIREARM IN A VEHICLE, AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW, THAT IS AT A LOCATION DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

(6) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "GOVERNING BODY" HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 29-1-102.

(b) "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS ANY CITY, COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, SPECIAL DISTRICT, OR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE, OR ANY DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR INSTRUMENTALITY THEREOF.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-105.5, **amend** (1)(a), (1)(b)(II), (3) introductory portion, (3)(d.5), and (3)(h); **repeal** (3)(d); and **add** (1)(a.5), (3)(i), (3)(j), and (4) as follows:

18-12-105.5. Unlawfully carrying a weapon - unlawful possession of weapons - school, college, or university grounds - definition. (1) (a) A person shall not knowingly and unlawfully and without legal authority carry, bring, or have in the person's possession a deadly weapon as defined in section 18-1-901 (3)(e) THAT IS NOT A FIREARM in or on the real estate and all improvements erected thereon of any public or private elementary, middle, junior high, high, or vocational school or any public or private college, university, or seminary; except for the purpose of presenting an authorized public demonstration or exhibition pursuant to instruction in conjunction with an organized school or class, for the purpose

of carrying out the necessary duties and functions of an employee of an educational institution that require the use of a deadly weapon THAT IS NOT A FIREARM, or for the purpose of participation in an authorized extracurricular activity or on an athletic team.

(a.5) A PERSON SHALL NOT KNOWINGLY CARRY A FIREARM, EITHER OPENLY OR CONCEALED, IN OR ON THE REAL ESTATE AND ALL IMPROVEMENTS ERECTED THEREON OF ANY LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER; PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, JUNIOR HIGH, HIGH, OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL; OR ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, OR SEMINARY; EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESENTING AN AUTHORIZED PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OR EXHIBITION PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN ORGANIZED SCHOOL OR CLASS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE NECESSARY DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF AN EMPLOYEE OF AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT REQUIRE THE USE OF A FIREARM, OR FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATION IN AN AUTHORIZED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY OR ON AN ATHLETIC TEAM.

(b) (II) A person who violates ~~subsection (1)(a)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a.5) of this section commits a ~~class 5 felony if the weapon involved is a firearm, as defined in section 18-1-901~~ CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR.

(3) It ~~shall not be~~ IS NOT an offense under this section if:

(d) ~~The person, at the time of carrying a concealed weapon, held a valid written permit to carry a concealed weapon issued pursuant to section 18-12-105.1, as said section existed prior to its repeal, except that it shall be an offense under this section if the person was carrying a concealed handgun in violation of the provisions of section 18-12-214 (3); or~~

(d.5) The weapon involved was a handgun, ~~and the person held a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun or a temporary emergency permit issued pursuant to part 2 of this article, except that it shall be an offense under this section if the person was carrying a concealed handgun in violation of the provisions of~~ ARTICLE 12, AND THE PERSON IS CARRYING THE CONCEALED HANDGUN:

(I) ON THE REAL PROPERTY, OR INTO ANY IMPROVEMENTS ERECTED THEREON, OF A PUBLIC ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, JUNIOR HIGH, OR HIGH SCHOOL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY GRANTED PURSUANT TO

section 18-12-214 (3); or

(II) IN A PARKING AREA OF A LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER OR A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, OR SEMINARY; OR

(h) The person has possession of the weapon for use in an educational program approved by a school, which program includes, but ~~shall not be~~ IS NOT limited to, any course designed for the repair or maintenance of weapons; OR

(i) THE WEAPON INVOLVED IS A FIREARM; THE PERSON CARRYING THE FIREARM IS EMPLOYED OR RETAINED AS SECURITY PERSONNEL BY A LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER OR A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, OR SEMINARY; AND THE PERSON IS CARRYING THE FIREARM WHILE ENGAGED IN THE PERSON'S OFFICIAL DUTIES AS SECURITY PERSONNEL; OR

(j) A LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER IS ON THE SAME REAL ESTATE AS ANOTHER BUILDING OR IMPROVEMENT THAT IS NOT A SCHOOL AND THAT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND THE PERSON IS CARRYING A FIREARM ON AN AREA OF REAL ESTATE OR ANY IMPROVEMENT THEREON THAT IS NOT DESIGNATED AS A LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER.

(4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER" MEANS A CHILD CARE CENTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26.5-5-303 (3), THAT IS LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD OR IS EXEMPT FROM LICENSING PURSUANT TO SECTION 26.5-5-304 (1)(b), AND THAT OPERATES WITH STATED EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. "LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26.5-5-303 (7).

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-13-724, **amend** (1)(a)(III), (1)(b)(I), (3)(a), (3)(b), and (3)(c) as follows:

1-13-724. Unlawfully carrying a firearm at a polling location or drop box - exception - legislative declaration. (1) (a) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(III) ~~Openly carried~~ Firearms in or near a polling location or drop

box may intimidate, threaten, or coerce voters, affecting Coloradans' exercise of their voting rights; and

(b) The general assembly further declares that:

(I) Regulating ~~openly carried~~ firearms at polling locations and drop boxes is substantially related to the general assembly's interest in ensuring all Colorado voters have the right to vote in an environment that is safe FROM GUN VIOLENCE and free from intimidation;

(3) (a) It is unlawful for any person to ~~openly~~ carry a firearm, as defined in section 18-1-901 (3)(h), within any polling location, or within one hundred feet of a drop box or any building in which a polling location is located, as publicly posted by the designated election official, on the day of any election or during the time when voting is permitted for any election. The designated election official responsible for any central count facility, polling location, or drop box involved in that election cycle shall visibly place a sign notifying persons of the one-hundred-foot no ~~open~~ carry zone for firearms required pursuant to this section.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to ~~openly~~ carry a firearm, as defined in section 18-1-901 (3)(h), within a central count facility, or within one hundred feet of any building in which a central count facility is located, during any ongoing election administration activity related to an active election conducted by the designated election official, as publicly posted by the designated election official.

(c) This ~~subsection (1)~~ SUBSECTION (3) does not apply to:

(I) A person who ~~openly~~ carries a firearm that the person owns on the person's private property that is within the one-hundred-foot buffer zone or while traveling directly between the person's private property and a place outside the one-hundred-foot buffer zone; ~~or~~

(II) A uniformed security guard employed by a contract security agency, as defined in section 24-33.5-415.4, acting within the scope of the authority granted by and in the performance of a contractual agreement for the provision of security services with a person or entity that owns or controls the facility, building, or location subject to this section; OR

(III) SECURITY PERSONNEL DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-33.5-216.7(5) WHILE ENGAGED IN THE SECURITY PERSONNEL'S OFFICIAL DUTIES.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-105, **amend** (1) introductory portion, (1)(c), and (2) introductory portion; and **add** (2)(b.5) as follows:

18-12-105. Unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon - unlawful possession of weapons. (1) A person commits a class 1 misdemeanor if ~~such~~ THE person knowingly and unlawfully:

(c) Without legal authority, carries, brings, or has in ~~such~~ THE person's possession ~~a firearm~~ or any explosive, incendiary, or other dangerous device on the property of or within any building in which the chambers, galleries, or offices of the general assembly, or either house thereof, are located, or in which a legislative hearing or meeting is being or is to be conducted, or in which the official office of any member, officer, or employee of the general assembly is located.

(2) It ~~shall not be~~ IS NOT an offense PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION if the defendant was:

(b.5) CARRYING A CONCEALED FIREARM AT A SPECIFIC LOCATION IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 1-13-724, 18-12-105.3, OR 18-12-105.5; OR

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-214, **amend** (3.5) as follows:

18-12-214. Authority granted by permit - carrying restrictions - local authority. (3.5) A permit issued pursuant to this part 2 does not authorize a person to carry a concealed handgun:

(a) Onto the real property, or into any improvements erected thereon, of a LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 18-12-105.5, OR A public OR PRIVATE college, or university, ~~if the carrying of concealed handguns is prohibited by the governing board of the college or university~~ OR SEMINARY IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 18-12-105.5;

(b) IN A GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 18-12-105.3; OR

(c) AT A POLLING LOCATION, DROP BOX, OR CENTRAL COUNT FACILITY, IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 1-13-724.

SECTION 7. Effective date - applicability. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, and applies to offenses committed on or after said date.

SECTION 8. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for

the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED _____
(Date and Time)

Jared S. Polis
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO