

---

---

# WEST VIRGINIA

## W. VA. CODE

---

---

### Chapter 8. Municipal Corporations

**8-12-5. General powers of every municipality and the governing body thereof.** In addition to the powers and authority granted by: (i) The constitution of this state; (ii) other provisions of this chapter; (iii) other general law; and (iv) any charter, and to the extent not inconsistent or in conflict with any of the foregoing except special legislative charters, every municipality and the governing body thereof shall have plenary power and authority therein by ordinance or resolution, as the case may require, and by appropriate action based thereon: ...

(16) To arrest, convict and punish any individual for carrying about his person any revolver or other pistol, dirk, bowie knife, razor, slingshot, billy, metallic or other false knuckles, or any other dangerous or other deadly weapon of like kind or character;...

**8-12-5a. Limitations upon municipalities' power to restrict the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying, transport, sale and storage of certain weapons and ammunition.** The provisions of section five [§ 8-12-5] of this article notwithstanding, neither a municipality nor the governing body of any municipality may limit the right of any person to purchase, possess, transfer, own, carry, transport, sell or store any revolver, pistol, rifle or shotgun or any ammunition or ammunition components to be used therewith nor to so regulate the keeping of gunpowder so as to directly or indirectly prohibit the ownership of the ammunition. Nothing herein shall in any way impair the authority of any municipality, or the governing body thereof, to enact any ordinance or resolution respecting the power to arrest, convict and punish any individual under the provisions of subdivision (16), section five [§ 8-12-5(16)] of this article or from enforcing any such ordinance or resolution: Provided, that any municipal ordinance in place as of the effective date of this section shall be excepted from the provisions of this section: Provided, however, that no provision in this section may be construed to limit the authority of a municipality to restrict the commercial use of real estate in designated areas through planning or zoning ordinances.

### Chapter 27. Mentally Ill Persons

**27-12-3. Miscellaneous offenses.** If any person shall entice any patient from any state hospital who has been legally committed thereto, or attempt to do so; or shall counsel, cause, influence or assist, or attempt to do so, any such patient to escape or attempt to escape therefrom, or harbor or conceal any such patient who has escaped therefrom; or shall, without the permission of the superintendent of any such hospital, give or sell to any such patient, whether on the premises thereof or elsewhere, any money, firearms, drugs, cigarettes, tobacco, or any other article whatsoever; or shall receive from the hands of any such patient anything of value, whether belonging to the state or not; or shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any such patient to violate any rule or to rebel against the government or discipline of such hospital; or shall tease, pester, annoy, or molest any such patient, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall

be fined not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, or imprisoned not exceeding six months, or, in the discretion of the court, both fined and imprisoned. If any person shall aid or abet the commission of any of the foregoing offenses or aid or abet an attempt to commit the same, he shall be guilty of the same as if he were the principal, and be punished as above provided. In the trial of an indictment for committing any of the above-named offenses, the accused may be found guilty of an attempt to commit the same, or of aiding or abetting another in committing or in an attempt to commit the same. If any person, not her husband, shall have sexual intercourse with any female patient who is a patient of any of said state hospitals, he shall be guilty of a felony, and, on conviction thereof, shall be confined in the penitentiary not less than ten nor more than fifteen years; and if such female patient be under sixteen years of age, he shall be imprisoned not less than ten nor more than twenty years.

### Chapter 28. State Correctional and Penal Institutions

**28-1-8. Offenses relating to youth facilities; penalties; escape; arrest and return.** If any person shall entice or attempt to entice away from any youth facility any youth legally committed to the same, or shall aid or abet any youth to escape therefrom, or shall harbor, conceal or aid or abet in harboring or concealing, any youth who shall have escaped therefrom, or shall, without the permission of the superintendent, give or sell, or aid or abet any other person to give or sell, to any youth in the youth facility, whether on the premises of such institution or otherwise, any ... firearms, ... or other articles whatsoever, or shall in any way cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence or aid or abet therein, any youth in the youth facility to violate any rule of the institution or to rebel against the government of said facility in any particular, or shall receive by the hands of any such youth anything of value, whether belonging to the state or otherwise, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than ten, nor more than one hundred dollars, or be confined not more than twelve months in the county jail, or, in the discretion of the court, both fined and imprisoned. The superintendent, or any of his assistants, or anyone authorized in writing by him, or any sheriff, constable, policeman or other peace officer, shall have power, and it is hereby made his duty, to arrest any youth, when in his power to do so, who shall have escaped from said facility, and return him thereto.

### Chapter 61. Crimes and Their Punishment

#### Article 3E. Offenses Involving Explosives.

**61-3E-1. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Destructive device" means any bomb, grenade, mine, rocket, missile, pipe bomb or similar device containing an explosive, incendiary, explosive gas or expanding gas which is designed or so constructed as to explode by such filler and is capable of causing bodily harm or property damage; any combination of parts, eith-

er designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

"Destructive device" does not include a firearm as such is defined in section two, article seven of this chapter or model rockets and their components as defined in section twenty-three, article three, chapter twenty-nine of this code.

(b) "Explosive material" means any chemical compound, mechanical mixture or device that is commonly used or can be used for the purpose of producing an explosion and which contains any oxidizing and combustible units or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities or packaging that an ignition by fire, by friction, by concussion, by percussion, by detonator or by any part of the compound or mixture may cause a sudden generation of highly heated gases. These materials include, but are not limited to, powders for blasting, high or low explosives, blasting materials, blasting agents, blasting emulsions, blasting fuses other than electric circuit breakers, detonators, blasting caps and other detonating agents and black or smokeless powders not manufactured or used for lawful sporting purposes or fireworks defined in section twenty-three, article three, chapter twenty-nine of this code which are not used in violation of this article. Also included are all explosive materials listed annually by the office of the state fire marshal and published in the state register, said publication being hereby mandated.

(c) "Hoax bomb" means any device or object that by its design, construction, content or characteristics appears to be, or is represented to be or to contain a destructive device, explosive material or incendiary device as defined in this section, but is, in fact, an inoperative facsimile or imitation of such a destructive device, explosive material or incendiary device.

(d) "Incendiary device" means a container containing gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, or derivative thereof, or other flammable or combustible material, having a wick or other substance or device which, if set or ignited, is capable of igniting such gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, or derivative thereof, or other flammable or combustible material: Provided, That no similar device commercially manufactured and used solely for the purpose of illumination shall be deemed to be an incendiary device.

(e) "Legal authority" means that right as expressly stated by statute or law.

(f) "Person" shall mean an individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society or joint stock company.

(g) "Storage magazine" is defined to mean any building or structure, other than an explosives manufacturing building, approved by the legal authority for the storage of explosive materials.

**61-3E-3. Illegal possession of destructive devices, explosive materials or incendiary devices; penalty.** Any person who possesses or manufactures any explosive material without first obtaining a permit to use explosives from the office of the state fire marshal or who possesses or manufactures any destructive device or incendiary device shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be committed to the custody of the Division of Corrections for not less than one nor more than ten years or

fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both.

**61-3E-7. Manufacture, purchase, sale, advertising for sale, transporting or possession or use of a hoax bomb; possession or use in commission of a felony; penalty.**

(a) Any person who knowingly manufactures, purchases, sells, advertises for sale, transports or possesses a hoax bomb with intent to violate any provision of this code shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person convicted of a violation of this section shall be incarcerated in a county or regional jail for not less than six months nor more than one year, or fined five thousand dollars, or both.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any person who possesses or uses a hoax bomb to commit or attempt to commit any felony shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be committed to the custody of the Division of Corrections for not less than one nor more than ten years, or fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

**61-3E-8. Theft of explosive material from storage magazines or buildings; penalty.**

Any person who breaks and enters or shall enter without breaking any storage magazine, shop, office, storehouse, warehouse or any other building or out-house adjoining thereto, any railcar, boat, vessel or motor vehicle within the jurisdiction of any county within this state where explosive material is stored, with the intent to commit larceny shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be committed to the custody of the Division of Corrections for not less than one nor more than ten years or fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

**61-3E-9. Receipt, possession, storage, sale or transportation of stolen explosive material; penalty.**

Any person who receives, conceals, transports, ships, stores, barter, sells or disposes of any explosive material knowing or have reason to know that such materials is stolen is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be committed to the custody of the Division of Corrections for not less than one nor more than ten years or fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

**61-3E-11. Exemptions.**

(a) Unless specifically prohibited by any provision of this code or the laws of the United States, nothing in this article shall prohibit the authorized manufacture, sale, transportation, distribution, use or possession of any explosive material by any person holding a permit for such issued by the office of the state fire marshal. Any person performing a lawful activity pursuant to or regulated by the terms of a permit issued by the division of environmental protection, or any office thereof, shall be exempt from the provisions of this article.

(b) Unless specifically prohibited by any other provision of this code or the laws of the United States, nothing in this section shall prohibit the authorized manufacture, transportation, distribution, use or possession of any explosive, destructive device or incendiary device by a member of the armed forces or law enforcement officers whenever such persons are acting lawfully and in the line of duty; nor shall it prohibit the manufacture, transportation, distribution, use or possession of any explosive material, destructive device or incendiary device to be used solely for lawful scientific research or lawful educational purposes. Any person engaged in other-

wise lawful blasting activities failing to obtain a permit or in possession of an expired permit issued by the office of the state fire marshal shall not be construed to be in violation of the article.

**61-3E-12. Contraband, seizure, forfeiture.**

Any destructive device, explosive material, incendiary device or hoax bomb possessed, involved in, used or intended to be used in a violation of this article or any violation of any criminal law or regulation of this state are hereby declared to be contraband and any property interest therein shall be vested in the state of West Virginia. Said contraband may be seized by the office of the state fire marshal or other law enforcement agency conducting said investigation and upon application to the circuit court of the county in which said contraband is seized be forfeited to the state of West Virginia for destruction or for training purposes by the office of the state fire marshal or other law enforcement agency.

**Article 7. Dangerous Weapons**

**61-7-1. Legislative findings.** The Legislature finds that the overwhelming support of the citizens of West Virginia for article three, section twenty-two of the constitution of this state, commonly known as the "Right to Keep and Bear Arms Amendment", combined with the obligation of the state to reasonably regulate the right of persons to keep and bear arms for self-defense requires the reenactment of this article.

**61-7-2. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires: ...

(7) "Pistol" means a short firearm having a chamber which is integral with the barrel, designed to be aimed and fired by the use of a single hand.

(8) "Revolver" means a short firearm having a cylinder of several chambers that are brought successively into line with the barrel to be discharged, designed to be aimed and fired by the use of a single hand.

(9) "Deadly weapon" means an instrument which is designed to be used to produce serious bodily injury or death, or is readily adaptable to such use. The term "deadly weapon" shall include, but not be limited to, the instruments defined in subdivisions (1) through (8), inclusive, of this section, or other deadly weapons of like kind or character which may be easily concealed on or about the person. For the purposes of section one-a [§ 18A-5-1a], article five, chapter eighteen-a of this code and section eleven-a [§ 61-7-11a], article seven of this chapter, in addition to the definition of "knife" set forth in subdivision (3) of this section, the term "deadly weapon" also includes any instrument included within the definition of "knife" with a blade of three and one-half inches or less in length. Additionally, for the purposes of section one-a, article five, chapter eighteen-a of this code and section eleven-a, article seven of this chapter, the term "deadly weapon" includes explosive, chemical, biological and radiological materials. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the term "deadly weapon" does not include any item or material owned by the school or county board, intended for curricular use, and used by the student at the time of the alleged offense solely for curricular purposes.

(10) "Concealed" means hidden from ordinary observation so as to prevent disclosure or recognition. A deadly weapon is concealed when it is carried on or about the person in such a manner that another person in the ordinary course of events would not be placed on notice that the deadly weapon was being carried.

(11) "Firearm" means any weapon which will expel a projectile by action of an explosion. ...

**61-7-7. Persons prohibited from possessing firearms; classifications; reinstatement of rights to possess; offenses; penalties.**

(a) Except as provided in this section, no person shall possess a firearm, as such is defined in section two of this article, who:

(1) Has been convicted in any court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;

(2) Is habitually addicted to alcohol;

(3) Is an unlawful user of or habitually addicted to any controlled substance;

(4) Has been adjudicated as a mental defective or who has been involuntarily committed to a mental institution pursuant to the provisions of chapter twenty-seven of this code: Provided, That once an individual has been adjudicated as a mental defective or involuntarily committed to a mental institution, he or she shall be duly notified that they are to immediately surrender any firearms in their ownership or possession: Provided, however, That the mental hygiene commissioner or circuit judge shall first make a determination of the appropriate public or private individual or entity to act as conservator for the surrendered property;

(5) Is an alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States;

(6) Has been discharged from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions;

(7) Is subject to a domestic violence protective order that:

(A) Was issued after a hearing of which such person received actual notice and at which such person had an opportunity to participate;

(B) Restrains such person from harassing, stalking or threatening an intimate partner of such person or child of such intimate partner or person, or engaging in other conduct that would place an intimate partner in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the partner or child; and

(C)(i) Includes a finding that such person represents a credible threat to the physical safety of such intimate partner or child; or

(ii) By its terms explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against such intimate partner or child that would reasonably be expected to cause bodily injury; or

(8) Has been convicted of a misdemeanor offense of assault or battery either under the provisions of section twenty-eight [§ 61-2-28], article two of this chapter or the provisions of subsection (b) or (c), section nine [§ 61-2-9] of said article in which the victim was a current or former spouse, current or former sexual or intimate partner, person with whom the defendant has a child in common, person with whom the defendant cohabits or has cohabited, a parent or guardian, the defendant's child or ward or a member of the defendant's household at the time of the offense or has been convicted in any court of any jurisdiction of a comparable misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or confined in the county jail for not less than ninety days nor more than one year, or both.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any person:

(1) Who has been convicted in this state or any other jurisdiction of a felony crime of

violence against the person of another or of a felony sexual offense; or

(2) Who has been convicted in this state or any other jurisdiction of a felony controlled substance offense involving a Schedule I controlled substance other than marijuana, a Schedule II or a Schedule III controlled substance as such are defined in sections two hundred four [§ 60A-2-204], two hundred five [§ 60A-2-205] and two hundred six [§ 60A-2-206], article two, chapter sixty-a of this code and who possesses a firearm as such is defined in section two of this article shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in a state correctional facility for not more than five years or fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both. The provisions of subsection (c) of this section shall not apply to persons convicted of offenses referred to in this subsection or to persons convicted of a violation of this subsection.

(c) Any person prohibited from possessing a firearm by the provisions of subsection (a) of this section may petition the circuit court of the county in which he or she resides to regain the ability to possess a firearm and if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person is competent and capable of exercising the responsibility concomitant with the possession of a firearm, the court may enter an order allowing the person to possess a firearm if such possession would not violate any federal law: Provided, That a person prohibited from possessing a firearm by the provisions of subdivision (4), subsection (a) of this section may petition to regain the ability to possess a firearm in accordance with the provisions of section five [§ 61-7A-5], article seven-a of this chapter.

**61-7-8. Possession of deadly weapons by minors; prohibitions.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, a person under the age of eighteen years who is not married or otherwise emancipated shall not possess or carry concealed or openly any deadly weapon: Provided, that a minor may possess a firearm upon premises owned by said minor or his family or on the premises of another with the permission of his or her parent or guardian and in the case of property other than his or her own or that of his family, with the permission of the owner or lessee of such property: Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall prohibit a minor from possessing a firearm while hunting in a lawful manner or while traveling from a place where he or she may lawfully possess a deadly weapon, to a hunting site, and returning to a place where he or she may lawfully possess such weapon.

A violation of this section by a person under the age of eighteen years shall subject the child to the jurisdiction of the circuit court under the provisions of article five [§§ 49-5-1 et seq.], chapter forty-nine of this code, and such minor may be proceeded against in the same manner as if he or she had committed an act which if committed by an adult would be a crime, and may be adjudicated delinquent.

**61-7-9. Possession of machine guns, penalties.** It shall be unlawful for any person to carry, transport, or have in his possession, any machine gun, submachine gun, or any other fully automatic weapon unless he or she has fully complied with applicable federal statutes and all applicable rules and regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States relating to such firearms.

Any person who violates the provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars nor more than five thousand dollars, or shall be confined in the county jail for not less than ninety days, or more than one year, or both.

**61-7-10. Display of deadly weapons for sale or hire; sale to prohibited persons; penalties.**

(a) A person may not publicly display and offer for rent or sale, or, where the person is other than a natural person, knowingly permit an employee thereof to publicly display and offer for rent or sale, to any passersby on any street, road or alley, any deadly weapon, machine gun, submachine gun or other fully automatic weapon, any rifle, shotgun or ammunition for same.

(b) Any person who violates the provisions of subsections (a) or (c) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars or shall be confined in the county jail for not more than one year, or both fined and confined, except that where the person violating the provisions of this subsection is other than a natural person, such person shall be fined not more than ten thousand dollars.

(c) A person may not knowingly sell, rent, give or lend, or, where the person is other than a natural person, knowingly permit an employee thereof to knowingly sell, rent, give or lend, any deadly weapon other than a firearm to a person prohibited from possessing a deadly weapon other than a firearm by any provision of this article.

(d) A person may not knowingly sell, rent, give or lend, or where the person is other than a natural person, knowingly permit an employee thereof to knowingly sell, rent, give or lend a firearm or ammunition to a person prohibited by any provision of this article or the provision of 18 U.S.C. § 922.

(e) Any person who violates any provisions of subsection (d) is guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$100,000 imprisoned in a state correctional facility for a definite term of years of not less than three years nor more than ten years, or both fined and imprisoned, except that where the person committing an offense punishable under this subsection is other than a natural person, such person shall be fined not more than \$250,000.

(f) Any person who knowingly solicits, persuades, encourages or entices a licensed dealer or private seller of firearms or ammunition to transfer a firearm or ammunition under circumstances which the person knows would violate the laws of this state or the United States is guilty of a felony. Any person who willfully procures another to engage in conduct prohibited by this subsection shall be punished as a principal. This subsection does not apply to a law-enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity. Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$5,000, imprisoned in a state correctional facility for a definite term of not less than one year nor more than five years, or both fined and imprisoned.

**61-7-11a. Possessing deadly weapons on premises of educational facilities; reports by school principals; suspension of driver license; possessing deadly weapons on prem-**

**ises housing courts of law and in offices of family law master.**

(a) The Legislature hereby finds that the safety and welfare of the citizens of this state are inextricably dependent upon assurances of safety for children attending, and the persons employed by, schools in this state and for those persons employed with the judicial department of this state. It is for the purpose of providing such assurances of safety, therefore, that subsections (b), (g) and (h) of this section are enacted as a reasonable regulation of the manner in which citizens may exercise those rights accorded to them pursuant to section twenty-two, article three of the Constitution of the state of West Virginia.

(b)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any firearm or any other deadly weapon on any school bus as defined in section one [§ 17A-1-1], article one, chapter seventeen-a of this code, or in or on any public or private primary or secondary education building, structure, facility or grounds thereof, including any vocational education building, structure, facility or grounds thereof where secondary vocational education programs are conducted or at any school-sponsored function.

(2) This subsection shall not apply to:

(A) A law enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity;

(B) A person specifically authorized by the board of education of the county or principal of the school where the property is located to conduct programs with valid educational purposes;

(C) A person who, as otherwise permitted by the provisions of this article, possesses an unloaded firearm or deadly weapon in a motor vehicle, or leaves an unloaded firearm or deadly weapon in a locked motor vehicle;

(D) Programs or raffles conducted with the approval of the county board of education or school which include the display of unloaded firearms; or

(E) The official mascot of West Virginia University, commonly known as "The Mountaineer", acting in his or her official capacity.

(3) Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary of this state for a definite term of years of not less than two years nor more than ten years, or fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both.

(c) It shall be the duty of the principal of each school subject to the authority of the state board of education to report any violation of subsection (b) of this section discovered by such principal to the state superintendent of schools within seventy-two hours after such violation occurs. The state board of education shall keep and maintain such reports and may prescribe rules establishing policy and procedures for the making and delivery of the same as required by this subsection. In addition, it shall be the duty of the principal of each school subject to the authority of the state board of education to report any violation of subsection (b) of this section discovered by such principal to the appropriate local office of the division of public safety within seventy-two hours after such violation occurs.

(d) In addition to the methods of disposition provided by article five [§§ 49-5-1 et seq.], chapter forty-nine of this code, any court which adjudicates a person who is fourteen years of age or older as delinquent for a violation of subsection (b) of this section may, in its discretion, order the Division of Motor Vehicles to suspend any driver's license or instruction permit issued to such person for such period of time as the court may

deem appropriate, such suspension, however, not to extend beyond such person's nineteenth birthday; or, where such person has not been issued a driver's license or instruction permit by this state, order the division of motor vehicles to deny such person's application for the same for such period of time as the court may deem appropriate, such denial, however, not to extend beyond such person's nineteenth birthday. Any suspension ordered by the court pursuant to this subsection shall be effective upon the date of entry of such order. Where the court orders the suspension of a driver's license or instruction permit pursuant to this subsection, the court shall confiscate any driver's license or instruction permit in the adjudicated person's possession and forward the same to the division of motor vehicles.

**(e)(1)** If a person eighteen years of age or older is convicted of violating subsection (b) of this section, and if such person does not act to appeal such conviction within the time periods described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, such person's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state shall be revoked in accordance with the provisions of this section.

**(2)** The clerk of the court in which the person is convicted as described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall forward to the commissioner a transcript of the judgment of conviction. If the conviction is the judgment of a magistrate court, the magistrate court clerk shall forward such transcript when the person convicted has not requested an appeal within twenty days of the sentencing for such conviction. If the conviction is the judgment of a circuit court, the circuit clerk shall forward such transcript when the person convicted has not filed a notice of intent to file a petition for appeal or writ of error within thirty days after the judgment was entered.

**(3)** If, upon examination of the transcript of the judgment of conviction, the commissioner shall determine that the person was convicted as described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner shall make and enter an order revoking such person's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state for a period of one year, or, in the event the person is a student enrolled in a secondary school, for a period of one year or until the person's twentieth birthday, whichever is the greater period. The order shall contain the reasons for the revocation and the revocation period. The order of suspension shall advise the person that because of the receipt of the court's transcript, a presumption exists that the person named in the order of suspension is the same person named in the transcript. The commissioner may grant an administrative hearing which substantially complies with the requirements of the provisions of section two [§ 17C-5A-2], article five-a, chapter seventeen-c of this code upon a preliminary showing that a possibility exists that the person named in the notice of conviction is not the same person whose license is being suspended. Such request for hearing shall be made within ten days after receipt of a copy of the order of suspension. The sole purpose of this hearing shall be for the person requesting the hearing to present evidence that he or she is not the person named in the notice. In the event the commissioner grants an administrative hearing, the commissioner shall stay the license suspension pending the commissioner's order resulting from the hearing.

**(4)** For the purposes of this subsection, a person is convicted when such person enters a plea of guilty or is found guilty by a court or jury.

**(f)(1)** It shall be unlawful for any parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) of a person less than eighteen years of age who knows that said person is in violation of subsection (b) of this section, or who has reasonable cause to believe that said person's violation of said subsection is imminent, to fail to immediately report such knowledge or belief to the appropriate school or law-enforcement officials.

**(2)** Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars, or shall be confined in jail not more than one year, or both.

**(g)(1)** It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any firearm or any other deadly weapon on any premises which houses a court of law or in the offices of a family law master.

**(2)** This subsection shall not apply to:

**(A)** A law enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity; and

**(B)** A person exempted from the provisions of this subsection by order of record entered by a court with jurisdiction over such premises or offices.

**(3)** Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars, or shall be confined in jail not more than one year, or both.

**(h)(1)** It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any firearm or any other deadly weapon on any premises which houses a court of law or in the offices of a family law master with the intent to commit a crime.

**(2)** Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary of this state for a definite term of years of not less than two years nor more than ten years, or fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both.

**(i)** Nothing in this section may be construed to be in conflict with the provisions of federal law.

#### **61-7-14. Right of certain persons to limit possession of firearms on premises.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of this article, any owner, lessee or other person charged with the care, custody and control of real property may prohibit the carrying openly or concealing of any firearm or deadly weapon on property under his or her domain: Provided, That for purposes of this section "person" means an individual or any entity which may acquire title to real property.

Any person carrying or possessing a firearm or other deadly weapon on the property of another who refuses to temporarily relinquish possession of such firearm or other deadly weapon, upon being requested to do so, or to leave such premises, while in possession of such firearm or other deadly weapon, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or confined in the county jail not more than six months, or both: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to those persons set forth in subsections (3) through (6), section six [§ 61-7-6] of this code while such persons are acting in an official capacity: Provided, however, That under no circumstances may any person possess or carry or cause the possession or carrying of any firearm or other deadly weapon on the premises of any primary or secondary educational facility in this state unless such person is a law-enforcement officer or he or she has the express written permission of the county school superintendent.

### **Article 7A. State Mental Health Registry; Reporting of Persons Proscribed from Firearm Possession Due to Mental Condition to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; Legislative Findings; Definitions; Reporting Requirements; Reinstatement of Rights Procedures.**

#### **61-7A-1. Legislative intent.**

It is the intention of the Legislature in the enactment of this article to clarify the persons whom it intends to proscribe from the possession of firearms due to substance abuse or mental illness; establish a process in reporting the names of persons proscribed from possession of firearms due to mental illness to the Central State Mental Health Registry; authorize reporting by registry to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; and to prescribe a means for reinstating one's ability to lawfully possess a firearm.

#### **61-7A-2. Definitions.**

As used in this article and as the terms are deemed to mean in 18 U. S. C. § 922(g) and section seven [§ 61-7-7], article seven of this chapter as each exists as of the thirty-first day of January, two thousand eight:

**(1)** "A person adjudicated as a mental defective" means a person who has been determined by a duly authorized court, tribunal, board or other entity to be mentally ill to the point where he or she has been found to be incompetent to stand trial due to mental illness or insanity, has been found not guilty in a criminal proceeding by reason of mental illness or insanity or has been determined to be unable to handle his or her own affairs due to mental illness or insanity.

**(2)** "Committed to a mental institution" means to have been involuntarily committed for treatment pursuant to the provisions of chapter twenty-seven [§§ 27-1-1 et seq.] of this code.

**(3)** "Mental institution" means any facility or part of a facility used for the treatment of persons committed for treatment of mental illness or addiction.

#### **61-7A-3. Persons whose names are to be supplied to the central state mental health registry.**

**(a)** The Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources, or their designees, shall cooperate with the circuit clerk of each county and Administrator of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in compiling and maintaining a database containing the names and identifying information of persons who have been adjudicated to be mentally defective or who have been committed for treatment of a mental illness pursuant to the provisions of chapter twenty-seven [§§ 27-1-1 et seq.] of this code. The registry shall be maintained by the Administrator of the Supreme Court of Appeals or the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police.

**(b)** The name of any person who has been adjudicated to be mentally defective or who has been committed for treatment of a mental illness pursuant to the provisions of chapter twenty-seven [§§ 27-1-1 et seq.] of this code which shall be provided to the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police for inclusion in the Central State Mental Health Registry. Upon receipt of the information being received by the Central State Mental Health Registry it may be transmitted to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and to county sheriffs;

(c) The Secretary of Department of Human Resources and the circuit clerk of each county shall, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this article, supply to the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police for inclusion in the Central State Mental Health Registry the name and identifying information required by the provisions of subsection (d) of this section of all persons covered by the provisions of this article and shall on an ongoing basis continue to provide such information as it is developed;

(d) The central state mental health registry shall contain the name, address at the time of commitment or adjudication, date of birth, date of commitment or adjudication and of all persons who have been adjudicated to be mentally defective or who have been committed for treatment of a mental illness pursuant to the provisions of chapter twenty-seven [§§ 27-1-1 et seq.] of this code.

(e) The Central State Mental Health Registry shall provide only such information about a person on the registry to county sheriffs and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System as is necessary to identify registrants; and

(f) On or before the first day of January, two thousand ten, the Central State Mental Health Registry shall contain the name, address at the time of commitment or adjudication, date of birth, date of commitment or adjudication and any other identifying characteristics of all persons who have been adjudicated to be mentally defective or who have been committed for treatment of a mental illness pursuant to the provisions of chapter twenty-seven [§§ 27-1-1 et seq.] of this code. Under no circumstances shall

the registry contain information relating to any diagnosis or treatment provided.

**61-7A-4. Confidentiality; limits on use of registry information.**

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, the Superintendent of the State Police, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources and the circuit clerks and the Administrator of the Supreme Court of Appeals may provide notice to the Central State Mental Health Registry and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System established pursuant to Section 103(d) of the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act, 18 U. S. C. § 922, that a person: (i) Has been involuntarily committed as provided in chapter twenty-seven [§§ 27-1-1 et seq.] of this code; (ii) has been adjudicated mentally incompetent in a proceeding under article six-a [§§ 61-6A-1 et seq.] of this chapter; or (iii) has regained the ability to possess a firearm by order of a circuit court in a proceeding under section five [§ 61-7A-5] of this article.

(b) The information contained in the Central State Mental Health Registry is to be used solely for the purpose of records checks related to firearms purchases and for eligibility for a state license or permit to possess or carry a concealed firearm.

(c) Whenever a person's name and other identifying information has been added to the Central State Mental Health Registry, a review of the state concealed handgun registry shall be undertaken and if such review reveals that the person possesses a current concealed handgun license, the sheriff of the county issuing the

concealed handgun license shall be informed of the person's change in status.

**61-7A-5. Petition to regain right to possess firearms.**

(a) Any person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm pursuant to the provisions of section seven [§ 61-7-7], article seven of this chapter or by provisions of federal law by virtue solely of having previously been adjudicated to be mentally defective or to having a prior involuntary commitment to a mental institution pursuant to chapter twenty-seven [§§ 27-1-1 et seq.] of this code may petition the circuit court of the county of his or her residence to regain the ability to lawfully possess a firearm. If the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person is competent and capable of exercising the responsibilities concomitant with the possession of a firearm, the court may enter an order allowing the petitioner to possess a firearm.

(b) The circuit clerk of each county shall provide the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police or his or her designee with a certified copy of any order entered pursuant to the provisions of this section. If the order restores the petitioner's ability to possess a firearm, petitioner's name shall be promptly removed from the Central State Mental Health Registry and the superintendent shall forthwith inform the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other federal entity operating the National Instant Criminal Background Check System of the court action.

**[Current through 2010 Second Extraordinary Session]**