

**KENTUCKY**  
**KY. REV. STAT.**

**Title III. Executive Branch**

**Chapter 16. State Police.**

**16.220 Public auction of confiscated firearms - Disposition of proceeds - State police treatment of transferred firearms.**

(1) Subject to the duty to return confiscated firearms to innocent owners pursuant to KRS 500.090, all firearms confiscated by the Kentucky State Police and not retained for official use pursuant to KRS 500.090 shall be sold at public auction to federally licensed firearms dealers holding a license appropriate for the type of firearm sold. The Kentucky State Police shall transfer firearms that are to be sold to the Department of Finance, Division of Surplus Property, for sale. Proceeds of the sale shall be transferred to the account of the Department for Local Government for use as provided in subsection (3) of this section. Prior to the sale of any firearm, the Kentucky State Police shall make an attempt to determine if the firearm to be sold has been stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained from an innocent owner and return the firearm to its lawful innocent owner, unless that person is ineligible to purchase a firearm under federal law.

(2) The Kentucky State Police shall receive firearms and ammunition confiscated by or abandoned to every law enforcement agency in Kentucky. The Kentucky State Police shall dispose of the firearms received in the manner specified in subsection (1) of this section. However, firearms which are not retained for official use, returned to an innocent lawful owner, or transferred to another government agency or public museum shall be sold as provided in subsections (1) and (3) of this section.

(3) The proceeds of firearms sales shall be utilized by the Department for Local Government to provide grants to city, county, charter county, and urban-county police departments, university safety and security departments organized pursuant to KRS 164.950, sheriff's departments for the purchase of body armor for sworn peace officers of those departments and service animals, as defined in KRS 525.010, of those departments. ...

(4) The Kentucky State Police may transfer a machine gun, short-barreled shotgun, short-barreled rifle, silencer, pistol with a shoulder stock, any other weapon, or destructive device as defined by the National Firearms Act which is subject to registration under the National Firearms Act, and is not properly registered in the national firearms transfer records for those types of weapons, to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms of the United States Department of the Treasury, after a reasonable attempt has been made to transfer the firearm to an eligible state or local law enforcement agency or to an eligible museum and no eligible recipient will take the firearm or weapon. National Firearms Act firearms and weapons which are properly registered and not returned to an innocent lawful owner or retained for official use as provided in this section shall be sold to properly licensed dealers under subsection (3) of this section.

**Title IX. Counties, Cities, and Other Local Units**

**Chapter 65. General Provisions Applicable to Counties, Cities, and Other Local Units**

**65.870. Local firearms control ordinances prohibited.** No city, county or urban-county government may occupy any part of the field of regulation of the transfer, ownership, possession, carrying or transportation of firearms, ammunition, or components of firearms or combination thereof.

**Title XIX. Public Safety and Morals**

**Chapter 237. Firearms and Destructive Devices**

**237.020 Right of Kentucky residents to buy firearms in contiguous states - Reciprocity as to residents of contiguous states.**

(1) Residents of the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall have the right to purchase rifles, shotguns, and any other firearms which they are permitted to purchase under federal law from properly licensed dealers, manufacturers, importers, or collectors located in states contiguous to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

(2) Residents of states contiguous to the Commonwealth of Kentucky may purchase rifles, shotguns, and any other firearms which they are permitted to purchase under federal law from properly licensed dealers, manufacturers, importers, or collectors located in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

(3) All such sales shall conform to the requirements of federal law, the Kentucky Revised Statutes, applicable local ordinances, and the law of the purchaser's state.

**237.030 Definitions for KRS 237.040 and 237.050.**

(1) "Destructive device" means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, mine, rocket, missile, or similar device and includes the unassembled components from which such a device can be made.

(2) "Booby trap device" includes any device, or substance designed to surreptitiously or covertly take life, endanger life or destroy or damage property and shall not include firearms.

**237.040 Criminal possession of destructive device or booby trap device.** A person is guilty of criminal possession of a destructive device or a booby trap device when he possesses, manufactures, or transports such substance or device with:

(1) Intent to use that device to commit an offense against the laws of this state, a political subdivision thereof, or of the United States; or

(2) Knowledge that some other person intends to use that device to commit an offense against the laws of this state, a political subdivision thereof, or of the United States.

(3) Mere possession without substantial evidence of the requisite intent is insufficient to bring action under KRS 237.030 to 237.050.

**237.050 Exemptions.** KRS 237.030 to 237.050 shall not apply to:

(1) Destructive devices or booby trap devices which are possessed by the government of the United States, this state, or a political subdivision thereof;

(2) Any device which is lawfully possessed under the gun control act of 1968, the organized

crime control act of 1971, or any other law of the United States or this state, unless a crime is committed therewith;

(3) Nonlethal devices placed on the premises of the owner or the lawful occupant thereof for his own self-protection or the protection of the said property;

(4) The setting of traps suitable and legal for the taking of game by persons licensed or permitted to do so by the game laws of the commonwealth;

(5) Inert devices which cannot readily be restored to operating condition; or

(6) The acquisition, possession, use, or control of firearms.

**237.060 Definitions for KRS 237.060 to 237.090 and certain other sections.** The following definitions apply in KRS 237.060 to 237.090 and KRS 197.170, 218A.992, 244.125, 244.990, and 514.110, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Handgun" means any pistol or revolver originally designed to be fired by the use of a single hand, or any other firearm originally designed to be fired by the use of a single hand.

(2) "Firearm" means any weapon which will expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

(3) "Licensed gun dealer" means a person who has a federal firearms license and any business license required by a state or local government entity.

(4) "Loaded" with respect to a firearm means:

(a) There is ammunition in the chamber of the firearm; or

(b) There is ammunition in the cylinder of the firearm; or

(c) There is ammunition in the magazine of a firearm, if the magazine is attached to the firearm.

(5) "Juvenile" means a person who has not attained his eighteenth birthday.

(6) "Ammunition" means loaded ammunition designed for use in any firearm.

(7) "Armor-piercing ammunition" means a projectile or projectile core which may be used in a handgun and which is constructed entirely (excluding the presence of traces of other substances) from one (1) or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium. "Armor piercing ammunition" does not include shotgun shot required by federal or state environmental or game regulations for hunting purposes, a frangible projectile designed for target shooting, a projectile which the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States finds is primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes, or any other projectile or projectile core which the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States finds is intended to be used for industrial purposes, including a charge used in an oil and gas well perforating device.

(8) "Flanged ammunition" means ammunition with a soft lead core and having sharp flanges which are designed to expand on impact.

**237.070 Prohibition against sale or transfer of firearm to convicted felon.**

(1) No person shall knowingly sell or transfer a firearm to any person prohibited from possessing it by KRS 527.040.

(2) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(3) Any firearm transferred in violation of this section shall be subject to forfeiture and shall be disposed of pursuant to KRS 237.090.

**237.080 Prohibition against manufacture, sale, delivery, transfer, or importation of armor-piercing ammunition - Exceptions.**

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly manufacture, sell, deliver, transfer, or import armor-piercing ammunition.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to members of the Armed Forces of the United States or law enforcement officers within the scope of their duties, nor shall it prohibit licensed gun dealers from possessing armor-piercing ammunition for the purpose of receiving and transferring it to members of the Armed Forces of the United States, or law enforcement officers for use within the scope of their duties.

(3) A violation of subsection (1) of this section shall be a Class D felony for the first offense and a Class C felony for each subsequent offense.

(4) Any armor-piercing ammunition transferred, sold, or offered for sale, in violation of this section is contraband and shall be seized and summarily forfeited to the state and shall be disposed of pursuant to KRS 237.090.

**237.090 Disposition of forfeited firearm or ammunition.** Any firearm or ammunition forfeited pursuant to KRS 237.060 to 237.090 shall, upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction, be disposed of or retained as provided in KRS 500.090.

**237.110 License to carry concealed deadly weapon - Criteria - Suspension or revocation - Prohibitions - Reciprocity - Reports.**

(1) The Department of State Police is authorized to issue licenses to carry concealed firearms or other deadly weapons to persons qualified as provided in this section. The Department of State Police or the Administrative Office of the Courts shall conduct a record check, covering all offenses and conditions which are required under 18 U.S.C. sec. 922(g) and this section, in the manner provided by 18 U.S.C. sec. 922(s). Licenses shall be valid throughout the state for a period of five (5) years from the date of issuance. Any person in compliance with the terms of the license may carry a concealed firearm or other deadly weapon or combination of firearms and other deadly weapons on or about his person. The licensee shall carry the license at all times the licensee is carrying a concealed firearm or other deadly weapon and shall display the license upon request of a law enforcement officer. Violation of the provisions of this subsection shall constitute a noncriminal violation with a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25), payable to the clerk of the District Court. ...

(9) Within thirty (30) days after the changing of a permanent address, or within thirty (30) days after the loss or destruction of a license, the licensee shall notify the Department of State Police of the loss or destruction. Failure to notify the Department of State Police shall constitute a noncriminal violation with a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25) payable to the clerk of the District Court. When a licensee makes application to change his or her residence address or other information on the license, neither the sheriff nor the Department of State Police shall require a surrender of the license until a new license is in the office of the applicable sheriff and available for issuance. Upon the issuance of a new license, the old license shall be destroyed by the sheriff. ...

(12) Not less than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration date of the license, the Department of State Police shall mail to each licensee a written notice of the expiration and a renewal form pre-

scribed by the Department of State Police. The licensee may renew his license on or before the expiration date by filing with the sheriff of his county of residence the renewal form, a notarized affidavit stating that the licensee remains qualified pursuant to the criteria specified in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, and the required renewal fee. The license shall be renewed to a qualified applicant upon receipt of the completed renewal application and appropriate payment of fees. When a licensee makes application for a renewal of his or her license, neither the sheriff nor the Department of State Police shall require a surrender of the license until the new license is in the office of the applicable sheriff and available for issuance. Upon the issuance of a new license, the old license shall be destroyed by the sheriff. A licensee who fails to file a renewal application on or before its expiration date may renew his license by paying, in addition to the license fees, a late fee of fifteen dollars (\$15). No license shall be renewed six (6) months or more after its expiration date, and the license shall be deemed to be permanently expired six (6) months after its expiration date. A person whose license has permanently expired may reapply for licensure pursuant to subsections (5), (6), and (7) of this section. ...

(16) The General Assembly finds as a matter of public policy that it is necessary to provide statewide uniform standards for issuing licenses to carry concealed firearms and to occupy the field of regulation of the bearing of concealed firearms to ensure that no person who qualifies under the provisions of this section is denied his rights. The General Assembly does not delegate to the Department of State Police the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section beyond those provisions contained in this section. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. ....

**237.990 Penalties.**

(1) Any person who violates any of the provisions of KRS 237.030 to 237.050 shall be guilty of a Class D felony.

(2) Any person who violates any of the provisions of KRS 237.030 to 237.050, and in so doing uses any destructive device or booby trap device to avoid detection by law enforcement or other government personnel or to avoid theft or detection by any other person, of any controlled substance as set forth in KRS Chapter 218A and held in violation of KRS 218A.140, shall be guilty of a Class C felony.

**Title L. Kentucky Penal Code**

**Chapter 527. Offenses Relating to Firearms and Weapons**

**527.010 Definitions for chapter.** The following definitions apply in this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Booby trap device" shall have the same meaning as set forth in KRS 237.030.

(2) "Deface" means to remove, deface, cover, alter, or destroy the manufacturer's serial number or any other distinguishing number or identification mark.

(3) "Destructive device" shall have the same meaning as set forth in KRS 237.030.

(4) "Firearm" means any weapon which will expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

(5) "Handgun" means any pistol or revolver originally designed to be fired by the use of a single hand, or any other firearm originally designed to be fired by the use of a single hand.

**527.020 Carrying concealed deadly weapon.**

(1) A person is guilty of carrying a concealed weapon when he carries concealed a firearm or other deadly weapon on or about his person.

(2) Peace officers, when necessary for their protection in the discharge of their official duties; United States mail carriers when actually engaged in their duties; and agents and messengers of express companies, when necessary for their protection in the discharge of their official duties, may carry concealed weapons on or about their person.

(3) Policemen directly employed by state, county, city, or urban-county governments may carry concealed deadly weapons on or about their person at all times within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, when expressly authorized to do so by the government employing the officer.

(4) Persons, except those specified in subsection (5) of this section, licensed to carry a concealed deadly weapon pursuant to KRS 237.110 may carry a firearm or other concealed deadly weapon on or about their persons at all times within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, if the firearm or concealed deadly weapon is carried in conformity with the requirements of that section. Unless otherwise specifically provided by the Kentucky Revised Statutes or applicable federal law, no criminal penalty shall attach to carrying a concealed firearm or other deadly weapon with a permit at any location at which an unconcealed firearm or other deadly weapon may be constitutionally carried. No person or organization, public or private shall prohibit a person licensed to carry a concealed deadly weapon from possessing a firearm, ammunition, or both, or other deadly weapon in his or her vehicle in compliance with the provisions of KRS 237.110 and 237.115. Any attempt by a person or organization, public or private, to violate the provisions of this subsection may be the subject of an action for appropriate relief or for damages in a Circuit Court or District Court of competent jurisdiction.

(5) The following persons, if they hold a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon pursuant to KRS 237.110, may carry a firearm or other concealed deadly weapon on or about their persons at all times and at all locations within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, without limitation:

(a) A Commonwealth's attorney or assistant Commonwealth's attorney;

(b) A county attorney or assistant county attorney;

(c) A justice or judge of the Court of Justice; and

(d) A retired or senior status justice or judge of the Court of Justice.

A person specified in this section who is issued a concealed deadly weapon license shall be issued a license which bears on its face the statement that it is valid at all locations within the Commonwealth of Kentucky and may have such other identifying characteristics as determined by the Department of State Police.

(6) The following persons may carry concealed deadly weapons on or about their person at all times and at all locations within the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

(a) An elected sheriff and full-time and part-time deputy sheriffs certified pursuant to KRS 15.380 to 15.404 when expressly authorized to do so by the unit of government employing the officer;

(b) An elected jailer and a deputy jailer who has successfully completed Department of Corrections basic training and maintains his or her

current in-service training when expressly authorized to do so by the jailer;

(c) The department head or any employee of a corrections department in any jurisdiction where the office of elected jailer has been merged with the office of sheriff who has successfully completed Department of Corrections basic training and maintains his or her current in-service training when expressly authorized to do so by the unit of government by which he or she is employed;

(7) A full-time paid peace officer of a government agency from another state or territory of the United States or an elected sheriff from another territory of the United States may carry a concealed deadly weapon in Kentucky, on or off duty, if the other state or territory accords a Kentucky full-time paid peace officer and a Kentucky elected sheriff the same rights by law. If the other state or territory limits a Kentucky full-time paid peace officer or elected sheriff to carrying a concealed deadly weapon while on duty, then that same restriction shall apply to a full-time paid peace officer or elected sheriff from that state or territory.

(8) A firearm or other deadly weapon shall not be deemed concealed on or about the person if it is located in a glove compartment, regularly installed in a motor vehicle by its manufacturer regardless of whether said compartment is locked, unlocked, or does not have a locking mechanism. No person or organization, public or private, shall prohibit a person from keeping a firearm or ammunition, or both, or other deadly weapon in a glove compartment of a vehicle in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. Any attempt by a person or organization, public or private, to violate the provisions of this subsection may be the subject of an action for appropriate relief or for damages in a Circuit Court or District Court of competent jurisdiction.

(9) Carrying a concealed weapon is a Class A misdemeanor unless the defendant has been previously convicted of a felony in which a deadly weapon was possessed, used or displayed in which case it is a Class D felony.

#### **527.030 Defacing a firearm.**

(1) A person is guilty of defacing a firearm when he intentionally defaces a firearm.

(2) Defacing a firearm is a Class A misdemeanor.

#### **527.040 Possession of firearm by convicted felon - Exceptions.**

(1) A person is guilty of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon when he possesses, manufactures, or transports a firearm when he has been convicted of a felony, as defined by the laws of the jurisdiction in which he was convicted, in any state or federal court and has not:

(a) Been granted a full pardon by the Governor or by the President of the United States;

(b) Been granted relief by the United States Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968, as amended.

(2) Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon is a Class D felony unless the firearm possessed is a handgun in which case it is a Class C felony.

(3) The provisions of this section shall apply to any youthful offender convicted of a felony of a offense under the laws of this Commonwealth. The exceptions contained in KRS 527.100 prohibiting possession of a handgun by a minor shall not apply to this section.

(4) The provisions of this section with respect to handguns, shall apply only to persons convicted after January 1, 1975, and with respect to other firearms, to persons convicted after July 15, 1994.

#### **527.050 Possession of defaced firearm.**

(1) A person is guilty of possession of a defaced firearm when he knowingly possesses a defaced firearm unless he makes a report to the police or other appropriate government agency of such possession prior to arrest or authorization of a warrant by a court.

(2) Possession of a defaced firearm is a Class A misdemeanor.

**527.060 Forfeiture.** Upon the conviction of any person for the violation of any law of this Commonwealth in which a deadly weapon was used, displayed or unlawfully possessed by such person the court shall order the weapon forfeited to the state and sold, destroyed or otherwise disposed of in accordance with KRS 500.090.

#### **527.070 Unlawful possession of a weapon on school property - Posting of sign - Exemptions.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful possession of a weapon on school property when he knowingly deposits, possesses, or carries, whether openly or concealed, for purposes other than instructional or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, or the purposes permitted in subsection (3) of this section, any firearm or other deadly weapon, destructive device, or booby trap device in any public or private school building or bus, on any public or private school campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field, or any other property owned, used, or operated by any board of education, school, board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution. The provisions of this section shall not apply to institutions of postsecondary or higher education.

(2) Each chief administrator of a public or private school shall display about the school in prominent locations, including, but not limited to, sports arenas, gymnasiums, stadiums, and cafeterias, a sign at least six (6) inches high and fourteen (14) inches wide stating:

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON ON SCHOOL PROPERTY IN KENTUCKY IS A FELONY PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM OF FIVE (5) YEARS IN PRISON AND A TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR (\$10,000) FINE.

Failure to post the sign shall not relieve any person of liability under this section.

(3) The provisions of this section prohibiting the unlawful possession of a weapon on school property shall not apply to:

(a) An adult who possesses a firearm, if the firearm is contained within a vehicle operated by the adult and is not removed from the vehicle, except for a purpose permitted herein, or brandished by the adult, or by any other person acting with expressed or implied consent of the adult, while the vehicle is on school property;

(b) Any pupils who are members of the reserve officers training corps or pupils enrolled in a course of instruction or members of a school club or team, to the extent they are required to carry arms or weapons in the discharge of their official class or team duties;

(c) Any peace officer or police officer authorized to carry a concealed weapon pursuant to KRS 527.020;

(d) Persons employed by the Armed Forces of the United States or members of the National Guard or militia when required in the discharge of their official duties to carry arms or weapons;

(e) Civil officers of the United States in the discharge of their official duties. Nothing in this section shall be construed as to allow any person to carry a concealed weapon into a public or private elementary or secondary school building;

(f) Any other persons, including, but not limited to, exhibitors of historical displays, who

have been authorized to carry a firearm by the board of education or board of trustees of the public or private institution;

(g) A person hunting during the lawful hunting season on lands owned by any public or private educational institution and designated as open to hunting by the board of education or board of trustees of the educational institution;

(h) A person possessing unloaded hunting weapons while traversing the grounds of any public or private educational institution for the purpose of gaining access to public or private lands open to hunting with the intent to hunt on the public or private lands, unless the lands of the educational institution are posted prohibiting the entry; or

(i) A person possessing guns or knives when conducting or attending a "gun and knife show" when the program has been approved by the board of education or board of trustees of the educational institution.

(4) Unlawful possession of a weapon on school property is a Class D felony.

#### **527.100 Possession of handgun by minor.**

(1) A person is guilty of possession of a handgun by a minor when, being under the age of eighteen (18) years, he possesses, manufactures, or transports a handgun as defined by KRS 527.010, except when the person is:

(a) In attendance at a hunter's safety course or a firearms safety course;

(b) Engaging in practice in the use of a firearm, or target shooting at an established firing range, or any other area where the discharge of a firearm is not prohibited;

(c) Engaging in an organized competition involving the use of a firearm, or participating in or practicing for a performance by a group organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any successor thereto which uses firearms as a part of the performance;

(d) Hunting or trapping pursuant to a valid license issued to him pursuant to the statutes or administrative regulations of this Commonwealth;

(e) Traveling to or from any activity described in paragraphs (a) to (d) of this subsection with any unloaded handgun in his possession;

(f) On real property which is under the control of an adult and has the permission of that adult and his parent or legal guardian to possess a handgun; or

(g) At his residence and with the permission of his parent or legal guardian possesses a handgun and is justified under the principles of justification set forth in KRS Chapter 503 in using physical force or deadly physical force.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, a handgun is "loaded" if:

(a) There is a cartridge in the chamber of the handgun; or

(b) There is a cartridge in the cylinder of the handgun, if the handgun is a revolver; or

(c) There is a cartridge in the magazine of a semiautomatic handgun, if the magazine is attached to the handgun; or

(d) The handgun and the ammunition for the handgun, are carried on the person of one under the age of eighteen (18) years or are in such close proximity to him that he could readily gain access to the handgun and the ammunition and load the handgun.

(3) Possession of a handgun by a minor is a Class A misdemeanor for the first offense and a Class D felony for each subsequent offense.

#### **527.110 Unlawfully providing handgun to juvenile or permitting juvenile to possess handgun.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawfully providing a handgun to a juvenile or permitting a juvenile to possess a handgun when he:

(a) Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly provides a handgun, with or without remuneration, in violation of KRS 527.040, 527.100, or 600.020 to any person he knows or has reason to believe is under the age of eighteen (18) years; or

(b) Is the parent or legal guardian of a juvenile and intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly pro-

vides a handgun to the juvenile or permits the juvenile to possess a handgun knowing that there is a substantial risk that the juvenile will use a handgun to commit a felony offense; or, with knowledge that the juvenile has been convicted of a crime of violence as defined in KRS 439.3401 or has been adjudicated a public offender of an offense which would constitute a crime of violence as defined in KRS 439.3401, provides a handgun to that juvenile.

(2) Unlawfully providing a hand gun to a juvenile or permitting a juvenile to possess a handgun is a Class D felony.

**[Current through 2002 Special Session, including 2002 Ky. Acts 281 (HB338) & 368 (HB97)]**