

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: H2/10/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1057

5 By: Representative R. Scott Richardson
6 By: Senator Irvin
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING POSSESSION OF A
10 FIREARM BY CERTAIN PERSONS; TO PERMIT THE RESTORATION
11 OF THE RIGHT TO POSSESS A FIREARM TO A NONVIOLENT
12 FELON; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13
14

Subtitle

16 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING POSSESSION
17 OF A FIREARM BY CERTAIN PERSONS; AND TO
18 PERMIT THE RESTORATION OF THE RIGHT TO
19 POSSESS A FIREARM TO A NONVIOLENT FELON.
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-73-103 is amended to read as follows:*
24 *5-73-103. Possession of firearms by certain persons.*

25 *(a) Except as provided in ~~subsection (d)~~ subsections (d) and (e) of*
26 *this section or unless authorized by and subject to such conditions as*
27 *prescribed by the Governor, or his or her designee, or ~~the United States~~*
28 *~~Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, or other~~ a bureau or*
29 *office designated by the United States Department of Justice, no person shall*
30 *possess or own ~~any~~ a firearm who has been:*

31 *(1) Convicted of a felony, with the exception of:*

32 *(A) An antitrust violation;*

33 *(B) An unfair trade practice;*

34 *(C) Restraint of trade; or*

35 *(D) Another offense relating to the regulation of business*

36 *practices;*



1 (2) Adjudicated mentally ill; or

2 (3) Committed involuntarily to ~~any~~ a mental institution.

3 (b)(1) Except as provided in subdivisions (b)(2) and (3) of this
4 section, a determination by a jury or a court that a person committed a
5 felony constitutes a conviction for purposes of subsection (a) of this
6 section even though the court suspended imposition of sentence or placed the
7 defendant on probation.

8 (2) Subdivision (b)(1) of this section does not apply to a
9 person whose case was dismissed and expunged under § 16-93-301 et seq. or §
10 16-98-303(g).

11 (3) The determination by the jury or court that the person
12 committed a felony does not constitute a conviction for purposes of
13 subsection (a) of this section if the person is subsequently granted a pardon
14 explicitly restoring the ability to possess a firearm.

15 (c)(1) A person who violates this section commits a Class B felony if:

16 (A) The person has a prior violent felony conviction;

17 (B) The person's current possession of a firearm involves
18 the commission of another crime;

19 (C) The person has a prior felony conviction for an
20 offense that had as an element of the offense the use or possession of a
21 deadly weapon; or

22 (D) The person has been previously convicted under this
23 section or a similar provision from another jurisdiction.

24 (2) A person who violates this section commits a Class D felony
25 if he or she has been previously convicted of a felony and his or her present
26 conduct or the prior felony conviction does not fall within subdivision
27 (c)(1) of this section.

28 (3) Otherwise, the person commits a Class A misdemeanor.

29 (d) The Governor may restore without granting a pardon the right of a
30 convicted felon ~~or an adjudicated delinquent to own and possess~~ to own,
31 possess, ship, receive, and transport a firearm upon the recommendation of
32 the chief law enforcement officer in the jurisdiction in which the person
33 resides, so long as the underlying felony ~~or delinquency adjudication:~~

34 (1) Did not involve the use of a weapon; and

35 (2) Occurred more than eight (8) years ago.

36 (e) ~~As used in this section, "felony" means any state or federal~~

1 ~~felony, excluding a federal or state felony offense for which the person~~
 2 ~~convicted has completed his or her sentence and pertaining to:~~

3 ~~(1) An antitrust violation;~~

4 ~~(2) An unfair trade practice;~~

5 ~~(3) Restraint of trade; or~~

6 ~~(4) Another offense relating to the regulation of business~~
 7 ~~practices. The right of a convicted felon to own, possess, ship, receive,~~
 8 ~~and transport a firearm shall be automatically restored by the Department of~~
 9 ~~Public Safety if the following conditions are met:~~

10 (1) The underlying felony was not:

11 (A) A serious felony involving violence as defined in § 5-
 12 4-501(c)(2);

13 (B) A felony involving violence as defined in § 5-4-
 14 501(d)(2); or

15 (C) A felony listed below or contained in the following
 16 chapters or subchapters:

17 (i) Homicide, § 5-10-101 et seq.;

18 (ii) Kidnapping and related offenses, § 5-11-101 et
 19 seq.;

20 (iii) Robbery, § 5-12-101 et seq.;

21 (iv) Assault and battery, § 5-13-101 et seq.;

22 (v) Sexual offenses, § 5-14-101 et seq.;

23 (vi) Voyeurism offenses, § 5-16-101 et seq.;

24 (vii) Death threats, § 5-17-101 et seq.;

25 (viii) The Human Trafficking Act of 2013, § 5-18-101
 26 et seq.;

27 (ix) Domestic battering and assault, § 5-26-301 et
 28 seq.;

29 (x) Custody and visitation, § 5-26-501 et seq.;

30 (xi) Exposing a child to a chemical substance or
 31 methamphetamine, § 5-27-230;

32 (xii) The Arkansas Protection of Children Against
 33 Exploitation Act of 1979, § 5-27-301 et seq.;

34 (xiii) Use of children in sexual performances, § 5-
 35 27-401 et seq.;

36 (xiv) Computer crimes against minors, § 5-27-601 et

1 seq.;
2 (xv) Abuse of adults, § 5-28-101 et seq.;
3 (xvi) The Vulnerable Person Protection Act, § 5-29-
4 201 et seq.;
5 (xvii) Damage or destruction of property, § 5-38-101
6 et seq.;
7 (xviii) Causing a catastrophe, § 5-38-202;
8 (xix) Arson, § 5-38-301;
9 (xx) Residential burglary, § 5-39-201;
10 (xxi) Aggravated residential burglary, § 5-39-204;
11 (xxii) Treason, § 5-51-201;
12 (xxiii) First degree escape, § 5-54-110, second
13 degree escape, § 5-54-111, third degree escape, § 5-54-112, and permitting
14 escape in the first degree, § 5-54-113;
15 (xxiv) Fleeing, § 5-54-125;
16 (xxv) Killing or injuring animals used by law
17 enforcement or search and rescue dogs, § 5-54-126;
18 (xxvi) Terrorism, § 5-54-201 et seq.;
19 (xxvii) Animals, § 5-62-101 et seq.;
20 (xxviii) Trafficking a controlled substance, § 5-64-
21 440;
22 (xxix) Aggravated riot, § 5-71-202;
23 (xxx) Stalking, § 5-71-229;
24 (xxxii) Weapons, § 5-73-101 et seq.;
25 (xxxii) The Arkansas Criminal Gang, Organization, or
26 Enterprise Act, § 5-74-101 et seq.;
27 (xxxiii) A felony that requires a person to register
28 as a sex offender under the Sex Offender Registration Act of 1997, § 12-12-
29 901 et seq.;
30 (xxxiv) An attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to
31 commit any of the felonies listed in subdivisions (d)(1) of this section, if
32 the attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy itself is a felony; or
33 (xxxv) A felony traffic offense committed in a motor
34 vehicle if the person was a holder of a commercial learner's permit or a
35 commercial driver's license at the time the felony traffic offense was
36 committed; and

1 (2)(A) The convicted felon completed his or her sentence for the
2 underlying felony, including without limitation the full payment of fines,
3 court costs, and restitution and any other terms or conditions of the
4 sentence, no less than ten (10) years ago.

5 (B)(i) The ten-year period of subdivision (e)(2)(A) of
6 this section shall be calculated from the date in which all terms of the
7 sentence for a felony other than an offense listed as an exception under
8 subdivision (a)(1) of this section were completed.

9 (ii) If the convicted felon has more than one (1)
10 felony conviction, the ten-year period of subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this
11 section shall be calculated from the latest date in which all terms of a
12 sentence for a felony other than an offense that is listed as an exception
13 under subdivision (a)(1) of this section were completed.

14 (f) The Department of Public Safety shall send by mail to a convicted
15 felon at his or her last known address a notification that he or she has met
16 the requirements for restoration under subsection (e) of this section.

17 (g) The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules to
18 implement subsections (e) and (f) of this section, including without
19 limitation setting forth the procedure by which the Department of Public
20 Safety will verify that the requisite conditions under subsection (e) of this
21 section have been met.

22
23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-73-309(5), concerning the circumstances
24 in which the Director of the Division of Arkansas State Police shall issue a
25 license to carry a concealed handgun, is amended to read as follows:

26 (5) Has not been convicted of a felony in a court of this state,
27 of any other state, or of the United States unless:

28 (A) The applicant is subsequently granted a pardon by the
29 Governor or the President of the United States explicitly restoring his or
30 her ability to possess a firearm;

31 (B) The applicant was sentenced prior to March 13, 1995,
32 and the record of conviction has been sealed or expunged under Arkansas law;

33 ~~or~~

34 (C) The applicant's offense was dismissed and sealed or
35 expunged under § 16-93-301 et seq. or § 16-98-303(g);

36 (D) The applicant's felony conviction was for an offense

1 that is listed as an exception under § 5-73-103(a)(1); or
2 (E) The applicant's ability to possess a firearm is
3 subsequently restored under § 5-73-103(d) or § 5-73-103(e);
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5 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Notification.

6 The Department of Public Safety shall by June 30, 2026, send the
7 notification required by § 5-73-103(f) to all residents of the state who have
8 met the requirements of § 5-73-103(e) as of the effective date of this act.
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10 SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary language.

11 (a) When adopting the initial rules to implement Section 1 of this
12 act, the final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for
13 adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

14 (1) On or before December 31, 2025; or

15 (2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by December
16 31, 2025, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

17 (b) The Department of Public Safety shall file the proposed rule with
18 the Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of
19 December 31, 2025, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rule for
20 approval before December 31, 2025.

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22 /s/R. Scott Richardson
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