

## CHAPTER 118.

AN ACT TO CONTROL THE POSSESSION, SALE, AND USE OF PISTOLS  
AND REVOLVERS.

## SECTION

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## SECTION

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

Definition of pistol or revolver.

SECTION 1. Pistol or revolver, as used in this act shall be construed as meaning any firearm with a barrel less than twelve inches in length.

Commission of crime by one armed with pistol and unlicensed, how punished.

SECT. 2. If any person shall commit or attempt to commit a crime, when armed with a pistol or revolver, and having no permit to carry the same, he shall in addition to the punishment provided for the crime, be punished by imprisonment for not more than five years.

What persons forbidden to carry pistols or revolvers; penalty for violation.

SECT. 3. No unnaturalized foreign-born person and no person who has been convicted of a felony against the person or property of another shall own or have in his possession or under his control a pistol or revolver, except as hereinafter provided. Violations of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than two years and upon conviction the pistol or revolver shall be confiscated and destroyed.

Carrying concealed weapon without license; penalty for violation.

SECT. 4. No person shall carry a pistol or revolver concealed in any vehicle or upon his person, except in his dwelling house or place of business, without a license therefor as hereinafter provided. Violations of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding one year or by both fine and imprisonment.

Persons exempt from application of preceding section.

SECT. 5. The provisions of the preceding sections shall not apply to marshals, sheriffs, policemen, or other duly appointed peace and other law enforcement officers, nor to the regular and ordinary trans-

portation of pistols or revolvers as merchandise, nor to members of the army, navy, or marine corps of the United States, nor to the national guard when on duty, nor to organizations by law authorized to purchase or receive such weapons, nor to duly authorized military or civil organizations when parading, or the members thereof when at or going to or from their customary places of assembly.

SECT. 6. The selectmen of towns or the mayor or chief of police of cities may, upon application of any person issue a license to such person to carry a loaded pistol or revolver in this state, for not more than one year from date of issue, if it appears that the applicant has good reason to fear an injury to his person or property or for any other proper purpose, and that he is a suitable person to be licensed. The license shall be in duplicate and shall bear the name, address, description, and signature of the licensee. The original thereof shall be delivered to the licensee, the duplicate shall be preserved by the selectmen of towns and the chief of police of the cities wherein issued for a period of one year.

SECT. 7. Any person or persons who shall sell, barter, hire, lend or give to any minor under the age of twenty-one years any pistol or revolver shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than one hundred dollars or be imprisoned not more than three months, or both. This section shall not apply to fathers, mothers, guardians, administrators, or executors who give to their children, wards, or heirs to an estate, a revolver.

SECT. 8. No person shall sell, deliver, or otherwise transfer a pistol or revolver to a person who is an unnaturalized foreign-born person or has been convicted of a felony against the person or property of another, except upon delivery of a written permit to purchase, signed by the selectmen of the town or the mayor or chief of police of the city. Before a delivery be made the purchaser shall sign in duplicate and deliver to the seller a statement containing his full name, address, and nationality, the date of sale, the caliber, make, model, and manufacturer's number of the weapon. The seller shall, within seven days, sign and forward to the chief of police of the city or selectmen of the town one copy thereof and shall retain the other copy for one year. This section shall not apply to sales at wholesale. Where neither party to the transaction holds a dealer's license, no person shall sell or otherwise transfer a pistol or revolver to any person not personally known to him. Violations of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

SECT. 9. Whoever, without being licensed as hereinafter provided, sells, advertises, or exposes for sale, or has in his possession

License to carry loaded weapon, to whom to be granted.

Sales, etc., of weapons to minors, how punished; exemption.

Sale, etc., to unnaturalized foreign-born persons, etc., or to a felon, prohibited except upon permit.

Selling, etc., of weapons without license, how punished.

with intent to sell, pistols or revolvers, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than two years.

SECT. 10. The selectmen of towns and the chief of police of cities may grant licenses, the form of which shall be prescribed by the secretary of state, effective for not more than one year from date of issue, permitting the licensee to sell at retail pistols and revolvers subject to the following conditions, for breach of any of which the license shall be subject to forfeiture:

1. The business shall be carried on only in the building designated in the license.

2. The license or a copy thereof, certified by the issuing authority, shall be displayed on the premises where it can easily be read.

3. No pistol or revolver shall be delivered (a) to a purchaser not personally known to the seller or who does not present clear evidence of his identity; nor (b) to an unnaturalized foreign-born person or a person who has been convicted of a felony and has no permit as required by section 8 of this act.

A true record, in duplicate, shall be made of every pistol or revolver sold, said record to be made in a book kept for the purpose, the form of which shall be prescribed by the secretary of state and shall be signed by the purchaser and by the person effecting the sale, and shall include the date of sale, the caliber, make, model, and manufacturer's number of the weapon, the name, address, and nationality of the purchaser. One copy of said record shall, within seven days, be forwarded to the selectmen of the town or the chief of police of the city and the other copy retained for one year.

SECT. 11. If any person in purchasing or otherwise securing delivery of a pistol or revolver shall give false information or offer false evidence of his identity he shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than two years.

SECT. 12. No person shall change, alter, remove, or obliterate the name of the maker, model, manufacturer's number, or other mark of identification on any pistol or revolver. Possession of any such firearms upon which the same shall have been changed, altered, removed, or obliterated, shall be presumptive evidence that such possessor has changed, altered, removed or obliterated the same. Violations of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

SECT. 13. All licenses heretofore issued within the state permitting the carrying of pistols or revolvers upon the person shall expire at midnight of July 31, 1923.

SECT. 14. This act shall not apply to antique pistols or revolvers incapable of use as such.

Licenses to sell, how granted; record of sales to be kept.

Purchasing weapon by false information or evidence, how punished.

Removing maker's name from weapon, or other mark of identification, how punished.

Existing licenses to expire July 31, 1923.

Antique weapons not included in act.

SECT. 15. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, and this act shall take effect upon its passage. Repealing clause: takes effect on passage.

[Approved May 4, 1923.]