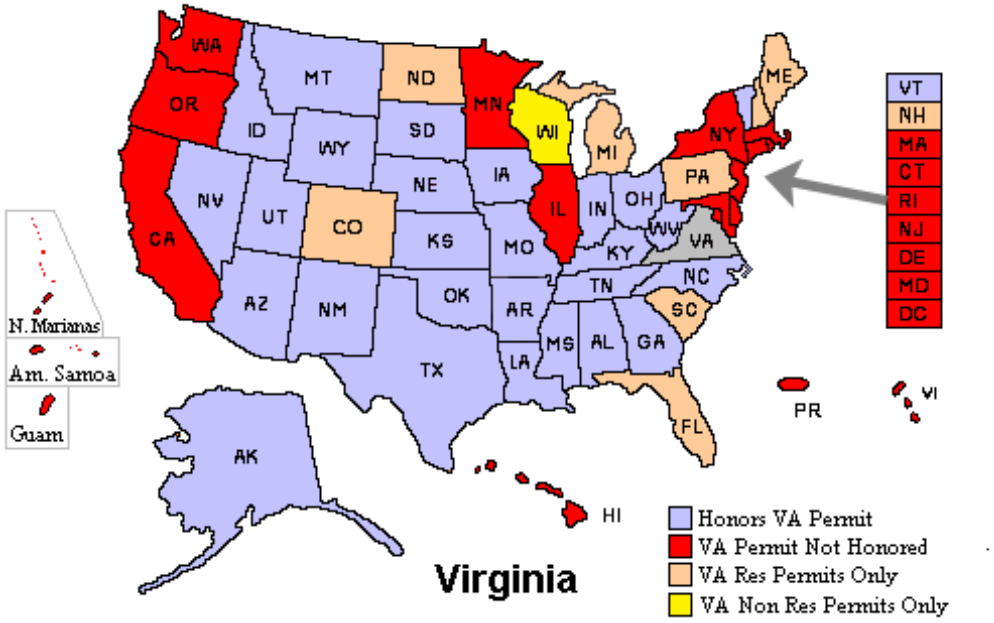
**Notice:** Virginia Government has signed a new bill that puts a hold until 7/1/2027 on the the so called Assault Weapons Ban and Magazine Bans.

# Virginia

**Shall Issue**

**Must Inform Officer Immediately: NO**

(See Must Inform Section)




**Note:** Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming have "Permitless Carry" Anyone who can legally possess a firearm under state and federal law may carry in these states without a Permit. Check each states page for age or other restrictions that may apply.

**Virginia CCW Links√**

- State CCW Site
- VA Firearm Laws
- Resident/Non-Resident CCW Application 11/25
- Application Information
  Fairfax County
- Resident Information
- Non-Res. Information
- Forms
- State FAQs
- Transporting Firearms
- State Statutes
- State Admin Rules
- State Reciprocity Info
- State Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Age to Carry a Firearm In Other States

**Last Updated: 9/5/2026**

## Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

**Virginia Honors all other states permit/licenses.**

Wisconsin will only honor the VA Non-Resident Permit/License.

**Virginia Honors Non-Resident Permits/Licenses From the States They Honor.** (Must be 21 Y/O)

**Notice:** Virginia's New Reciprocity Law does not go into effect until next year. Until then they still honor all other states.

### Reciprocity/How This State Honors Other States Permit/Licenses

**§ 18.2-308.014. Reciprocity.**

**A.** A valid concealed handgun or concealed weapon permit or license issued by another state shall authorize the holder of such permit or license who is at least 21 years of age to carry a concealed handgun in the Commonwealth, provided

**(i)** the issuing authority provides the means for instantaneous verification of the validity of all such permits or licenses issued within that state, accessible 24 hours a day if available;

**(ii)** the permit or license holder carries a photo identification issued by a government agency of any state or by the U.S. Department of Defense or U.S. Department of State and displays the permit or license and such identification upon demand by a law-enforcement officer; and

**(iii)** the permit or license holder has not previously had a Virginia concealed handgun permit revoked. The Superintendent of State Police shall enter into agreements for reciprocal recognition with such other states that require an agreement to be in place before such state will recognize a Virginia concealed handgun permit as valid in such state. The Attorney General shall provide the Superintendent with any legal assistance or advice necessary for the Superintendent to perform his duties set forth in this subsection. If the Superintendent determines that another state requires that an agreement for reciprocal recognition be executed by the Attorney General or otherwise formally approved by the Attorney General as a condition of such other state's entering into an agreement for reciprocal recognition, the Attorney General shall

**(a)** execute such agreement or otherwise formally approve such agreement and

**(b)** return to the Superintendent the executed agreement or, in a form deemed acceptable by such other state, documentation of his formal approval of such agreement within 30 days after the Superintendent notifies the Attorney General, in writing, that he is required to execute or otherwise formally approve such agreement.

**(B)** For the purposes of participation in concealed handgun reciprocity agreements with other jurisdictions, the official government-issued law-enforcement identification card issued to an active-duty law-enforcement officer in the Commonwealth who is exempt from obtaining a concealed handgun permit under this article shall be deemed a concealed handgun permit. 2013, c. 746; 2016, cc. 46, 47.

## How to Apply for a Permit

### Application for a Concealed Handgun Permit

Any person 21 years of age or older may apply in writing to the clerk of the circuit court of the county or city in which he or she resides, or if he is a member of the United States armed forces, the county or city in which he is domiciled, for a five-year permit to carry a concealed handgun. There is no requirement as to the length of time an applicant for a Concealed Handgun Permit must have been a resident or domiciliary of the county or city where he or she resides.

### § 18.2-308.02. Application for a Concealed Handgun Permit; Virginia Resident or Domiciliary.

**A**. Any person 21 years of age or older may apply in writing or electronically to the clerk of the circuit court of the county or city in which he resides, or if he is a member of the United States Armed Forces and stationed outside the Commonwealth, the county or city in which he is domiciled, for a five-year permit to carry a concealed handgun. There shall be no requirement regarding the length of time an applicant has been a resident or domiciliary of the county or city. The application shall be on a form prescribed by the Department of State Police, in consultation with the Supreme Court, requiring only that information necessary to determine eligibility for the permit. Additionally, the application may request but not require that the applicant provide an email or other electronic address where a notice of permit expiration can be sent

pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-308.010. The applicant shall present one valid form of photo identification issued by a governmental agency of the Commonwealth or by the U.S. Department of Defense or U.S. State Department (passport). No information or documentation other than that which is allowed on the application in accordance with this section may be requested or required by the clerk or the court.

**B.** The court shall require proof that the applicant has demonstrated competence with a handgun in person and the applicant may demonstrate such competence by one of the following, but no applicant shall be required to submit to any additional demonstration of competence, nor shall any proof of demonstrated competence expire:

1. Completing any hunter education or hunter safety course approved by the Board of Wildlife Resources or a similar agency of another state;
2. Completing any National Rifle Association or United States Concealed Carry Association firearms safety or training course;
3. Completing any firearms safety or training course or class available to the general public offered by a law-enforcement agency, institution of higher education, or private or public institution or organization or firearms training school utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association, the United States Concealed Carry Association, or the Department of Criminal Justice Services;
4. Completing any law-enforcement firearms safety or training course or class offered for security guards, investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of law enforcement or security enforcement;
5. Presenting evidence of equivalent experience with a firearm through participation in organized shooting competition or current military service or proof of an honorable discharge from any branch of the armed services;
6. Obtaining or previously having held a license to carry a firearm in the Commonwealth or a locality thereof, unless such license has been revoked for cause;
7. Completing any in-person firearms training or safety course or class conducted by a state-certified, National Rifle Association-certified, or United States Concealed Carry Association-certified firearms instructor;
8. Completing any governmental police agency firearms training course and qualifying to carry a firearm in the course of normal police duties; or
9. Completing any other firearms training which the court deems adequate.

A photocopy of a certificate of completion of any of the courses or classes; an affidavit from the instructor, school, club, organization, or group that conducted or taught such course or class attesting to the completion of the course or class by the applicant; or a copy of any document that shows completion of the course or class or evidences participation in firearms competition constitutes evidence of qualification under this subsection.

**C.** The making of a materially false statement in an application under this article constitute perjury, punishable as provided in § 18.2-434.

**D**. The clerk of court shall withhold from public disclosure the applicant's name and any other information contained in a permit application or any order issuing a concealed handgun permit, except that such information shall not be withheld from any law-enforcement officer acting in the performance of his official duties or from the applicant with respect to his own information. The prohibition on public disclosure of information under this subsection shall not apply to any reference to the issuance of a concealed handgun permit in any order book before July 1, 2008; however, any other concealed handgun records maintained by the clerk shall be withheld from public disclosure.

**E.** An application is deemed complete when all information required to be furnished by the applicant, including the fee for a concealed handgun permit as set forth in § 18.2-308.03, is delivered to and received by the clerk of court before or concomitant with the conduct of a state or national criminal history records check.

**F.** For purposes of this section, a member of the United States Armed Forces is domiciled in the county or city where such member claims his home of record with the United States Armed Forces. 2026, c. 1034.

**Renewal**

Persons who previously have held a Virginia resident permit shall be issued, upon application, a new five-year permit unless there is good cause shown for refusing to reissue a permit. The same fees and time constraints apply in the instance of renewal. Persons who previously have been issued a concealed handgun permit are not required to appear in person to apply for a new five-year permit; the application for the new permit may be submitted via the United States mail. The circuit court that receives the application shall promptly notify the applicant if the application is incomplete or if the fee submitted is incorrect.

If the new five-year permit is issued while an existing permit remains valid, the new five-year permit shall become effective upon the expiration date of the existing permit, provided that the application is received by the court at least 90 days but no more than 180 days prior to the expiration of the existing permit.

**Links to all Virginia Concealed Carry Permit Issuing Authorities**

## Non-Resident Permits

Request an Application Package by contacting the Virginia State Police Firearms Transaction Center in writing at the below address or on-line at **nonrespermit@vsp.virginia.gov.** All written requests must include the applicant's complete name and mailing address. A telephone number is also requested. Send written requests to:

Firearms Transaction Center
Nonresident CHP Permits
Criminal Justice Information Services Division
Department of State Police
P.O. Box 85141
Richmond, VA 23285-5141

The Application Package will include a Concealed Handgun Permit Application, requirement and qualification information, a fingerprint card, a brochure on Virginia Firearms Safety and Laws, and a return envelope for the completed application. Complete Information **"Here".**

## Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

**§ 18.2-283.2. Possessing or Transporting a Weapon Within Capitol Square or Into a Building Owned or Leased By the Commonwealth; Penalty.**

**A.** For the purposes of this section, "Capitol Square and the surrounding area" means (i) the grounds, land, real property, and improvements in the City of Richmond bounded by Bank, Governor, Broad, and Ninth Streets, and the sidewalks of Bank Street extending from 50 feet west of the Pocahontas Building entrance to 50 feet east of the entrance of the Capitol of Virginia.

**B**. . It is unlawful for any person to carry any firearm as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2 or explosive material as defined in § 18.2-308.2 within (i) the Capitol of Virginia; (ii) Capitol Square and the surrounding area; (iii)

any building owned or leased by the Commonwealth or any agency thereof; or (iv) any office where employees of the Commonwealth or any agency thereof are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties.**C.** A violation of this section is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any firearm or explosive material carried in violation of this section shall be subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and forfeited to the Commonwealth and disposed of as provided in § 19.2-386.28..

**F.** Notice of the provisions of this section shall be posted conspicuously along the boundary of Capitol Square and the surrounding area and at the public entrance of each location listed in subsection B, and no person shall be convicted of an offense under subsection B if such notice is not posted at such public entrance, unless such person had actual notice of the prohibitions in subsection B. SB 272 2026

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- Buildings, public parks, recreation or community centers owned or used by a local community. Public street, road, alley or sidewalk or public right-of-way doing a permitted event. These areas must be posted. See § 15.2-915 below for more details.
- Private property when prohibited by the owner of the property, or where posted as prohibited. Violation is a trespass charge and not a firearms violation. § 18.2-308
- Carrying dangerous weapon to place of religious worship while a meeting for religious purposes is being held unless you have "good and sufficient reason." There is no known definition of what a good and sufficient reason would be. Violation is a minor crime, punishable by a fine of up to $100. § 18.2-283 **Note:** See AG's Opinion in AG Opinions/Court Cases Section Below)
- Courthouse. Violation is a high-level misdemeanor. § 18.2-283.1
- K-12 school grounds (at all times), preschool grounds (during operating hours), and child day-center grounds (during operating hours). School property/school functions (School busses are school property) unless gun is unloaded, in an enclosed container and in the vehicle. A car's trunk **is** considered an enclosed container. **However**, a concealed handgun permit holder **can** have a loaded, concealed handgun or stun gun in the vehicle while in the school parking lot, traffic circle, etc. The concealed handgun and the permit holder must stay in the vehicle. Firearms are not banned from property open to the public where a school function is being held unless that property is being used exclusively for the school function. Violation of this statute is a felony. § 18.2-308.1
- Non-secure areas of airport terminals are off limits unless you are a passenger and you have your gun unloaded, in a locked container in your checked luggage, and declare the gun at the check-in counter. Violation is a high-level misdemeanor. § 18.2-287.01
- Regional Jail or Juvenile Detention Facility. § 15.2-915
- Within 40 foot of Polling Places one hour before opening until one hour after closing. § 24.2-604

**Caution FYI** - The Virginia Attorney General stated in an **Opinion** dated September 1, 2021 that VA Code 24.2-604(A)(iv) defining Polling Places that, "doing early voting periods central absentee voter precincts, voter satellite offices and offices of general registrars are POLLING PLACES." Use Caution!

**§ 15.2-915. Control of Firearms; Applicability to Authorities and Local Governmental Agencies.**

**E.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a locality may adopt an ordinance that prohibits the possession, carrying, or transportation of any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof

**(i)** in any building, or part thereof, owned or ,used by such locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality, for governmental purposes;

**(ii)** in any public park owned or operated by the locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality;

**(iii)** in any recreation or community center facility operated by the locality, or by any authority or local

governmental entity created or controlled by the, locality; or

**(iv)** in any public street, road, alley, or sidewalk or public right-of-way or any other place of whatever nature That is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit. In buildings that are not owned by a locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality, such ordinance shall apply only to the part of the building that is being used for a governmental purpose and when such building, or part thereof, is being used for a governmental purpose.

Any such ordinance may, include security measures that are, designed to reasonably prevent the unauthorized access of such buildings, parks, recreation or community center facilities, or public streets, roads, alleys, or sidewalks or public rights-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit by a person with any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, such as the use of metal detectors and increased use of security personnel.

The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the activities of

**(i)** a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program operated at a public or private institution of higher education in accordance with the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq. or

**(ii)** any intercollegiate athletics program operated by a public or private institution of higher education and governed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association or any club sports team recognized by a public or private institution of higher education where the sport engaged in by such program or team involves the use of a firearm. Such activities shall follow strict guidelines developed by such institutions for these activities and shall be conducted under the supervision of staff officials of such institutions.

**F**. Notice of any ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection E shall be posted

**(i)** at all entrances of any building, or part thereof, owned or used by the locality, or by any authority or local Governmental entity created or controlled by the locality, for governmental purposes;

**(ii)** at all entrances of any public park owned or operated by the locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality;

**(iii)** at all entrances of any recreation or community center facilities operated by the locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality; and

**(iv)** at all entrances or other appropriate places of ingress and egress to any public street, road, alley, or sidewalk or public right-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit.

2020, cc. 1205, 1247.

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us recommends you visit **VCDL** and read their synopsis on each City/County Ordinance. Per **§ 15.2-915** Local Governments can ban firearms, even permit holders, from carrying in their buildings, Parks, Community Centers, Special Events etc. As the law states places off limits **must be posted**. The below listed Cities/Counties have passed such ordinances. There could be others. Below is taken from the VCDL and Handgunlaw.us recommends you go to their site at VCDL Carry Info for an expanded synopsis of each cities ordinances and to exactly who/what/where each city/county ordinances pertain to.

**§ 18.2-11.** Definition of Misdemeanors - Punishment for Conviction of Misdemeanor.

**Albemarle County** - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
**Alexandria** (City) - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
**Arlington County** – VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
**Blacksburg** (Town) – VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
**Charlottesville** (City) - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**Dumfries** (Town) - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
**Fairfax City** - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 4 misdemeanor.
**Fairfax County** - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
**Falls Church** - VCDL is stating - Violation Class 1 misdemeanor. Prohibited on School Board Property.
**Henrico County** - VCDL is stating - all carry (open and concealed with CHP) prohibited in local government buildings and community and recreation centers.
**Herndon** (Town) - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor. (Effective January 1, 2022)
**Loudoun County** – VCDL is stating - Violation is Class 1 misdemeanor. Carry Prohibited School Board Property
**Manassas Park** (City) (Eff. 1/1/2026) - VCDL is stating - Open and Concealed with a CHP Prohibited In Local Government Buildings, Recreation Center, City Hall, Public Works, Social Services, Permitting Services.
**Newport News** (City) - VCDL is stating - No Carry in Building Owed or Used by City. Violation is civil of $500.
**Petersburg** (City) - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor
**Richmond** (City) - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
**Roanoke** (City) - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
**Surry County** - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
**Virginia Beach** (City) 38-3.1 thru 38-3.9 - VCDL is stating - Violator to be removed from building.
**Winchester** (City) - VCDL is stating - Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**§ 18.2-308.1. Possession of Firearm, Stun Weapon, or Other Weapon on School Property Prohibited;**

**A.** If any person knowingly possesses any

**(i)** stun weapon as defined in this section;

**(ii)** knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or

**(iii)** weapon, including a weapon of like kind, designated in subsection A of §18.2-308, other than a firearm; upon

**(a)** the property of any child day center or public, private, or religious preschool, elementary, middle, or high school, including buildings and grounds;

**(b)** that portion of any property open to the public and then exclusively used for school-sponsored functions or extracurricular activities while such functions or activities are taking place; or

**(c)** any school bus owned or operated by any such school, he is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**B.** If any person knowingly possesses any firearm designed or intended to expel a projectile by action of an explosion of a combustible material while such person is upon

**(i)** the property of any child day center or public, private, or religious preschool, elementary, middle, or high school, including buildings and grounds;

**(ii)** that portion of any property open to the public and then exclusively used for school-sponsored functions or extracurricular activities while such functions or activities are taking place; or

**(iii)** any school bus owned or operated by any such school, he is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

**C**. If any person knowingly possesses any firearm designed or intended to expel a projectile by action of an explosion of a combustible material within the building of a child day center or public, private, or religious preschool, elementary, middle, or high school and intends to use, or attempts to use, such firearm, or displays such weapon in a threatening manner, such person is guilty of a Class 6 felony and sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years to be served consecutively with any other sentence.

**D.** The child day center and private or religious preschool provisions of this section

**(i)** shall apply only during the operating hours of such child day center or private or religious preschool and
**(ii)** shall not apply to any person
**(a)** whose residence is on the property of a child day center or a private or religious preschool and
**(b)** who possesses a firearm or other weapon prohibited under this section while in his **residence.**

**E**. The exemptions set out in §§ 18.2-308 and 18.2-308.016 shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the provisions of this section. The provisions of this section shall not apply to

**(i)** persons who possess such weapon or weapons as a part of the school's curriculum or activities;

**(ii**) a person possessing a knife customarily used for food preparation or service and using it for such purpose;

**(iii)** persons who possess such weapon or weapons as a part of any program sponsored or facilitated by either the school or any organization authorized by the school to conduct its programs either on or off the school premises;

**(iv)** any law-enforcement officer, or retired law-enforcement officer qualified pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-308.016;

**(v)** any person who possesses a knife or blade which he uses customarily in his trade;

**(vi)** a person who possesses an unloaded firearm that is in a closed container, or a knife having a metal blade, in or upon a motor vehicle, or an unloaded shotgun or rifle in a firearms rack in or upon a motor vehicle;

**(vii) a person who has a valid concealed handgun permit and possesses a concealed handgun while in a motor vehicle in a parking lot, traffic circle, or other means of vehicular ingress or egress to the school;**

**(viii)** a school security officer authorized to carry a firearm pursuant to § 22.1-280.2:1; or

**(ix)** an armed security officer, licensed pursuant to Article 4 (§ 9.1-138 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1, hired by a child day center or a private or religious school for the protection of students and employees as authorized by such school. For the purposes of this paragraph, "weapon" includes a knife having a metal blade of three inches or longer and "closed container" includes a locked vehicle trunk.

**F. As Used in This Section:**

"Child day center" means a child day center, as defined in § 63.2-100, that is licensed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 17 (§ 63.2-1700 et seq.) of Title 63.2 and is not operated at the residence of the provider or of any of the children.

"Stun weapon" means any device that emits a momentary or pulsed output, which is electrical, audible, optical or electromagnetic in nature and which is designed to temporarily incapacitate a person

2020, cc. 693, 1037, 1249.

### § 19.2-386.28. Forfeiture of Weapons, Etc., That are Concealed, Possessed, Transported, or Carried In Violation of Law.

If any firearm, stun weapon as defined by § 18.2-308.1, weapon, magazine, auto sear, or trigger activator is concealed, possessed, transported, or carried in violation of § 18.2-283.1, 18.2-287.01, 18.2-287.4, 18.2-287.4:1, 18.2-308.1:2, 18.2-308.1:3, 18.2-308.1:4, 18.2-308.1:8, 18.2-308.1:9, 18.2-308.2, 18.2-308.2:01, 18.2-308.2:1, 18.2-308.4, 18.2-308.5, 18.2-308.5:1, 18.2-308.7, 18.2-308.8, or 18.2-309.1, it shall be forfeited to the Commonwealth and disposed of as provided in § 19.2-386.29. SB 749 2026

### § 22.1-131.1. Certain School Board Property; Establishment of Gun-Free Zone Permitted.

Notwithstanding the provisions of § 15.2-915, in addition to ensuring compliance with the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990, 18 U.S.C. § 922(q), any school board may deem any building or property that it

owns or leases where employees of such school board are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties, outside of school zones, as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, as a gun-free zone and may prohibit any individual from knowingly purchasing, possessing, transferring, carrying, storing, or transporting firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof while such individual is upon such property. Such prohibition shall not apply to

**(i)** any law-enforcement officer;

**(ii)** any retired law-enforcement officer qualified to carry firearms pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-308.016;

**(iii)** any individual who possesses an unloaded firearm that is in a closed container in or upon a motor vehicle or an unloaded shotgun or rifle in a firearms rack in or upon a motor vehicle; or

**(iv)** any individual who has a valid concealed handgun permit and possesses a concealed handgun while in a motor vehicle in a parking lot, traffic circle, or other means of vehicular ingress to or egress from the school board property. 2021, Sp. Sess. I, c. 439.

**1VAC30-105-10 thru 1VAC30-105-80 Regulations Banning Concealed Firearms in Offices Owned or Occupied by Executive Branch**

The purpose of these regulations is to ban the carrying of concealed firearms in offices occupied by executive branch agencies, with certain exceptions as set forth herein. Signs shall be posted at all state offices indicating the prohibition against carrying concealed firearms. **Note:** Handgunlaw.us recommends you read all sec 105 of the Administrative Code.

**Carry On College/Universities in Virginia**

The **VA AG Opinion** states: It is my opinion that the safe operation of the campus allows regulation of, or under limited circumstances, prohibition of, firearms by any persons attending events on campus, visiting dormitories or classroom buildings, attending specific events as invitees, or under any circumstance permitted by law. The universal prohibition of firearms by properly permitted persons other than students, faculty, administration, or employees, however, is not allowed under law. A board of visitors has responsibility for the protection of the students enrolled at their university. At the same time, the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States14 and by Article I, § 13, of the Constitution of Virginia,15 which protect all citizens, may not be summarily dismissed for transient reasons.

**Note:** Colleges and Universities are changing their rules to Regulations which give them the force of law. The AG Opinion even states this. Use extreme caution before carrying onto any College or University Property. Make sure you know what their Regulations are concerning firearms. See the Virginia Citizens Defense League Listing for College/Universities Information **Here**. Use Caution!

**Note:** **Armed Campus Organization** Has information on all the States Campus Carry Statutes, Regulations and Policies with some covering firearms Policies on each school's campus.

**§ 18.2-287.01. Carrying Weapon in Air Carrier Airport Terminal.** (Edited For Space Considerations)

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or transport into any air carrier airport terminal in the Commonwealth any

**(i)** gun or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind,

**(ii)** frame, receiver, muffler, silencer, missile, projectile or ammunition designed for use with a dangerous weapon, and

**(iii)** any other dangerous weapon, including explosives, stun weapons as defined in § 18.2-308.1, and those weapons specified in subsection A of § 18.2-308. Any such weapon shall be subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer. A violation of this section is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any weapon possessed or transported in violation of this section shall be forfeited to the Commonwealth and disposed of as provided in § 19.2-386.28. 2016, c. 257

**Note:** The VA Citizens Defensive League lists those Airports that are Air Carrier Airports:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reagan National | Arlington, | Charlottesville Regional | Charlottesville, |
| Dulles International | Chantilly, | Lynchburg Municipal | Lynchburg, |
| Norfolk International | Norfolk, | Richmond International | Richmond, |
| Roanoke Regional | Roanoke, | Shenandoah Valley Regional | Staunton, |
| Newport News Williamsburg International | Newport News, | | |

**4VAC15-40-120. Hog Island Wildlife Management Area; Possession of Loaded Gun Prohibited; Exception.**

It shall be unlawful to have in possession at any time a gun which is not unloaded and cased or dismantled on that portion of the Hog Island Wildlife Management Area bordering on the James River and lying north of the Surry Nuclear Power Plant, except while hunting deer or waterfowl in conformity with a special permit issued by the department. 1994; Volume 11, Issue 9

**4VAC15-40-140. Prohibited on Buggs Island and Certain Waters of the Gaston Reservoir.**

It shall be unlawful to hunt or have in one's possession a loaded gun on Buggs Island or to shoot over or have a loaded gun upon the water on Gaston Reservoir (Roanoke River) from a point beginning at High Rock and extending to the John H. Kerr Dam. Volume 11, Issue 9, eff. February 22, 1995

**4VAC15-270-40. Shooting or Carrying Rifle or Pistol Over Public Inland Waters.**

It shall be unlawful to shoot a rifle or pistol at wild birds or animals on or over the public inland waters of this Commonwealth; provided, however that licensed trappers may shoot a .22 caliber rimfire rifle or pistol on or over public inland waters for the purpose of dispatching a trapped animal. It shall be unlawful to carry a loaded rifle or pistol on a boat or other floating device on the public inland waters for the purpose of hunting wild birds and wild animals; provided, however, that unloaded rifles or pistols may be transported by boat from one point to another. Nothing in this regulation applies to department personnel conducting wildlife management activities on the public waters of the Commonwealth

§ 4; amended, Virginia Register Volume 24, Issue 6, eff. July 1, 2008.

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## Firearms on Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA Property)

**12. Firearms Are Prohibited Except As Specifically Noted**. While firearms and weapons are generally prohibited, possession of firearms and other weapons associated with in-season hunting excursions are permissible if they are unloaded and properly cased. **Possession of firearms at TVA public boat ramps (and associated roads and parking areas when used in conjunction with a boat ramp) is allowed if the possession complies with the law of the state where the boat ramp is located and is not otherwise prohibited by law. Otherwise firearms and weapons are prohibited.**

**Note:** Day Use Areas, Campgrounds, and other developed recreational TVA lands are still off limits. TVA

lands where Hunting is presently allowed, Undeveloped Shorelines, Boat Ramps, Boat Ramp Parking Areas and Associated Roads for those areas is where carry will be allowed. Rules for Undeveloped Areas. Campground Rules

For Federal Restrictions on Firearms see the **USA Page**.

## Ronald Reagan National & Washington Dulles International Airports

**Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority**

**§ 8.4. Dangerous Weapons Prohibited**.

**(1)** No person may possess a dangerous weapon within or bring any dangerous weapon into the Airports' terminals or the airfields or any building that opens onto the airfield on which signs are posted so as to give reasonable notice to the public unless:

**(a)** the person is a passenger of an airline and possesses the weapon in one of the Airports' terminals for the sole purposes of

**(i)** presenting such weapon to U.S. Customs agents in advance of an international flight,
**(ii)** checking such weapon with his luggage, or
**(iii)** retrieving such weapon from the baggage claim area, and the weapon, if a firearm, is unloaded and carried in a locked, hard-sided container to which only that person retains the key or combination; or

**(b)** the weapon is **(i)** packaged for shipment in a container that is locked or otherwise secured and **(ii)** if a firearm, unloaded, and **(iii)** brought or possessed on Authority facilities for shipment by air or retrieval after shipment by air.

**(2)** The provisions of this section shall not apply:

**(a)** to persons authorized by 49 CFR Section 1540.111 to carry a dangerous weapon on their persons or accessible property in the sterile areas of the Airports;

**(b)** to law enforcement officers required to carry firearms while in the performance of their official law enforcement duties while on the Airports;

**(c)** to employees or agents of the Authority and the weapon is to be used under Authority direction for Authority purposes such as game control; or

**(d)** to persons who need the weapon in the performance of their duties for legitimate airport purposes such as armored car guards) and the Airport Manager has previously approved, in writing, that person possessing a weapon where he would otherwise be prohibited. Res. No. 04-30, 12-1-04

**§ 8.5. Definition of Dangerous Weapon.** A dangerous weapon includes, by way of illustration and not limitation:

**(1)** any pistol, revolver, rifle, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind; or

**(2)** any knife with a blade longer than four inches, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, razor, sling bow, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, sand club, sandbag, bow and arrow; or

**(3)** any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nun cacao, shuriken, or fighting chain; or

**(4)** any disc of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart; or

**(5)** any mechanism designed to emit an electronic, magnetic, or other type of charge that exceeds the equivalency of a five milliamp sixty hertz shock and used for the purpose of temporarily incapacitating a person, which may be known as a stun gun; or

**(6)** any mechanism designed to emit an electronic, magnetic, or other type of charge or shock through the use of a projectile and used for the purpose of temporarily incapacitating a person, which may be known as a taser. (Res. No. 94-4, 1-5-94)

## Do "No Gun Signs" Have the Force of Law?

**"YES"** **§ 18.2-308.01(C)** **(Trespass Charge)**

"No Firearm" signs in Virginia have no force of law unless they are posted on property that is specifically mentioned in State Law as being off limits to those with a Permit/License to Carry. If you are in a place not specifically mentioned in the law that is posted and they ask you to leave, you must leave. If you refuse to leave then you are breaking the law and can be charged. Even if the property is not posted and you are asked to leave you must leave. Always be aware of the possibility that responding Police Officers who may have been called without your knowledge and may not know the laws on trespass etc. could arrest you even if you are within the law.

"Handgunlaw.us highly recommends that you not enter a place that is posted "No Firearms" no matter what the state laws read/mean on signage. We recommend you print out the **No Guns = No Money Cards** and give one to the owner of the establishment that has the signage." As responsible gun owners and upholders of the 2nd Amendment we should also honor the rights of property owners to control their own property even if we disagree with them."

## Parking Lot Storage Laws (Local Public Employees)

**§ 15.2-915. Control of Firearms; Applicability to Authorities and Local Governmental Agencies.**

**A.** No locality shall adopt or enforce any ordinance, resolution, or motion, as permitted by § 15.2-1425, and no agent of such locality shall take any administrative action, governing the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying, storage, or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof other than those expressly authorized by statute. For purposes of this section, a statute that does not refer to firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof shall not be construed to provide express authorization.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit a locality from adopting workplace rules relating to terms and conditions of employment of the workforce. However, no locality shall adopt any workplace rule, other than for the purposes of a community services board or behavioral health authority as defined in § 37.2-100, that prevents an employee of that locality from storing at that locality's workplace a lawfully possessed firearm and ammunition in a locked private motor vehicle. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 9.1-101, from acting within the scope of his duties.

The provisions of this section applicable to a locality shall also apply to any authority or to a local governmental entity, including a department or agency, but not including any local or regional jail, juvenile detention facility, or state-governed entity, department, or agency.

**B**. Any local ordinance, resolution, or motion adopted prior to July 1, 2004, governing the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying, or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, other than those expressly authorized by statute, is invalid.

**C.** In addition to any other relief provided, the court may award reasonable attorney fees, expenses, and court costs to any person, group, or entity that prevails in an action challenging

**(i)** an ordinance, resolution, or motion as being in conflict with this section or

**(ii)** an administrative action taken in bad faith as being in conflict with this section.

**D.** For purposes of this section, "workplace" means "workplace of the locality." 2020, cc. 1205, 1247.

## Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

**"NO"**

**§ 18.2-308.01. Carrying a Concealed Handgun with a Permit.**

**(H)** …. The person issued the permit shall have such permit on his person at all times during which he is carrying a concealed handgun and shall display the permit and a photo identification issued by a government agency of the Commonwealth or by the U.S. Department of Defense or U.S. State Department (passport) upon demand by a law-enforcement officer. A person to whom a nonresident permit is issued shall have such permit on his person at all times when he is carrying a concealed handgun in the Commonwealth and shall display the permit on demand by a law-enforcement officer…. 2013, c. 746.

## Carry In State Parks//WMA/Road Side Rest Areas & St. /Nat. Forests

**Carry Allowed in these Areas**

***State Parks:** **YES**

**St./Nat. Forests/DWR Properties** **YES** **Open/Concealed All** **DWR Properties** **State/Nat Forests**

**Road Side Rest Areas:** **Not in the Buildings** **18.2-283.2**

***Notice:** If State Park Carry is Legal in this state and if that state park is located on a lake created by the US Army Corp of Engineers (COE) who owns the land and leases it to the state for that park the park is Off Limits to the legal carrying of firearms per federal law. **36 CFR 327.13** District Commanders received this Memorandum detailing how they could authorize someone to carry on (COE) property. The (COE) has also put out a Pamphlet on carrying firearms on (COE) Property. They do not post their property you must know the boundaries. Hunting **is usually** allowed during hunting season.

## RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

**§ 18.2-308 Carrying Concealed Weapons; Exceptions; Penalty.**

**C**. Except as provided in subsection A of § 18.2-308.012, this section shall not apply to:

**8.** Any person who may lawfully possess a firearm and is carrying a handgun while in a personal, private motor vehicle or vessel and such handgun is secured in a container or compartment in the vehicle or vessel; 2023, c. 611

For purposes of this subsection, the term "compartment" includes a console, glove compartment, or any other area within or on the vehicle or vessel that possesses the ability to be closed and the term "secured" means that a container or compartment be closed but not necessarily locked.

**§ 18.2-308.7:1. Firearm in Unattended Motor Vehicle; Penalty.** (New Section)

**A.** For purposes of this section:

**"Handgun"** means any pistol or revolver or other firearm originally designed, made, and intended to fire single or multiple projectiles by means of an explosion of a combustible material from one or more barrels when held in one hand.

**"Vehicle"** has the same meaning as ascribed to "motor vehicle" in § 46.2-364. A "boat" is considered a vehicle and is defined as any vessel or other watercraft, privately owned, whether moved by oars, paddles, sails, or other power mechanism, inboard or outboard, or any other vessel or structure floating on water in the Commonwealth, whether or not capable of self-locomotion, including cruisers, cabin cruisers, runabouts, houseboats, and barges. However, bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, motorized skateboards or scooters, and mopeds are not vehicles. A vehicle is considered to be unattended if

**(i)** such vehicle is left unattended

**(a)** on a public highway or other public property or

**(b)** any parking area, lot, or structure intended for commercial or retail use, including such parking areas, lots, or structures exclusively reserved and used by commercial or retail employees, and

**(ii)** the owner, operator, or any passenger of such motor vehicle is unable to observe such motor vehicle.

**B**. No person shall knowingly leave a handgun in an unattended vehicle or trunk unless such handgun is placed out of plain view in a locked hard-sided container, including a locked container that is affixed to the vehicle's interior by steel cable, bolt, or welding. A locked container affixed to the vehicle's interior includes a locked glove compartment or a locked center console. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.

**C.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to

**(i)** the storage of any antique firearm as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2,

**(ii)** a law-enforcement officer as defined in § 9.1-101, or

**(iii)** a person who reports the theft or loss of a firearm to a law-enforcement agency as provided in § 18.2-287.5.

## Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

Open Carry is legal. Places as listed in the "Places Off Limits" above apply to those who open carry. The Governor has also stated he will ban Open Carry in all buildings under the Exe Branches control. They would have to be posted No Open Carry. Open Carry is very common in Virginia. See the "RV/Car Carry Without a Permit" section for carrying in a vehicle.

State preempts has changed and cities/counties can prohibit firearms in their buildings/parks/properties and at special events but they must post signs. See Places Off Limits and Preemption Sections for more information. Remember that if you enter any property and the owner/responsible person ask you to leave you must leave. Failure to leave can result in Trespass Charges. The Minimum age for Open Carry is 18.

**Here** is a Virginia attorney explaining how Court Cases have made Open Carry more difficult in Virginia. Handgunlaw.us highly recommends you watch this 10 minute video before open carrying in Virginia. Info

In some states Open Carry is forbidden in places where those with a valid permit/license can carry. This is not the last word on Open Carry in this state. Go to Google and type in State Name Open Carry or Open Carry State Name for a search for open carry info in this state. Check with the **State's RKBA**

Organization/s. Also see “Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases” Section for any written opinions/Cases on Open Carry.

## State Preemption

**§ 15.2-915. Control of Firearms; Applicability to Authorities and Local Governmental Agencies.**

**E.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a locality may adopt an ordinance that prohibits the possession, carrying, or transportation of any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof

**(i)** in any building, or part thereof, owned or ,used by such locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality, for governmental purposes;

**(ii)** in any public park owned or operated by the locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality;

**(iii)** in any recreation or community center facility operated by the locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the, locality; or

**(iv)** in any public street, road, alley, or sidewalk or public right-of-way or any other place of whatever nature That is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit. In buildings that are not owned by a locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality, such ordinance shall apply only to the part of the building that is being used for a governmental purpose and when such building, or part thereof, is being used for a governmental purpose.

Any such ordinance may, include security measures that are, designed to reasonably prevent the unauthorized access of such buildings, parks, recreation or community center facilities, or public streets, roads, alleys, or sidewalks or public rights-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit by a person with any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, such as the use of metal detectors and increased use of security personnel.

The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the activities of

**(i)** a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program operated at a public or private institution of higher education in accordance with the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq. or

**(ii)** any intercollegiate athletics program operated by a public or private institution of higher education and governed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association or any club sports team recognized by a public or private institution of higher education where the sport engaged in by such program or team involves the use of a firearm. Such activities shall follow strict guidelines developed by such institutions for these activities and shall be conducted under the supervision of staff officials of such institutions.

**F**. Notice of any ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection E shall be posted

**(i)** at all entrances of any building, or part thereof, owned or used by the locality, or by any authority or local Governmental entity created or controlled by the locality, for governmental purposes;

**(ii)** at all entrances of any public park owned or operated by the locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality;

**(iii)** at all entrances of any recreation or community center facilities operated by the locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality; and

**(iv)** at all entrances or other appropriate places of ingress and egress to any public street, road, alley,

or sidewalk or public right-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit.

2020, cc. 1205, 1247.

## Deadly Force Laws

**A Look at Current Self-Defense Common Law In Virginia (Important Information)**
Virginia Citizens Defense League March 2012

Virginia currently has excellent protections for those involved in the use of force for self-defense. Our protections are much broader than the "Castle Doctrines" that many states have. True "Castle Doctrine" bills provide protection only in a person's home, while Virginia common law provides protections everywhere you might be - at home, in the yard, at work, at the store, in church, etc. Some states desperately needed "Castle Doctrine" laws, as their existing laws were horrible on self-defense. Many required a person to retreat EVEN IN THEIR OWN HOME! Not true in Virginia.

Virginia is a "stand-your-ground" state. That means AS LONG AS YOU ARE NOT PART OF "THE PROBLEM" and are innocent, you can stand your ground and use force to defend yourself wherever you may be. Deadly force is only allowed if you are under IMMEDIATE threat and you reasonably fear that you, or another innocent party, will be killed or be grievously injured. The death of an attacker caused by use of such deadly force is considered "justifiable homicide." Note that you don't actually have to be in a deadly situation, but only have a REASONABLE FEAR that you are in such a situation, to be justified in the use of deadly force. For example, if someone tries to rob you with a toy gun and you don't know it's a toy gun, you would be justified in responding with deadly force since you would reasonably fear that your life was in immediate danger.

If you are part of "the problem," say by making an obscene gesture or yelling a threat at someone, then, if attacked, you MUST RETREAT. The retreat must be as far as you can reasonably go and you must indicate that you give up the fight. Then, and only then, if the attacker persists, can you use force against them. If they are trying to kill you or grievously injure you, and they die because of your use of deadly force, it is considered "excusable homicide," a lower standard than "justifiable homicide." Moral to the story: don't give up your right to stand-your-ground by being part of the problem - ever.

The reason that a person who is part of the problem is required to retreat is to avoid someone committing murder under the guise of self-defense. Otherwise, a murderer could intentionally badger a victim to the point that the victim attacks out of sheer anger or frustration. At that point the murderer, standing his ground, could use that attack as an excuse to kill the victim "in self-defense," getting away with murder legally. Not good, not acceptable, and not legal.

Would common law or the "Castle Doctrine" bills GUARANTEE that a person legally defending themselves could NOT be charged with murder or sued civilly? NO. If the police and/or the Commonwealth Attorney have reason to believe, rightly or wrongly, that you committed a murder instead of true self-defense, you are going to be arrested and charged. Period. As far as a civil suit, you can be sued for anything and nothing can stop that either. However, common law (and the wording in the Castle Doctrine bills) provide a defense. However, the common law provides the same defense wherever you may be, while the "Castle Doctrine" would only apply inside your dwelling.

Virginia Law on Self Defense/Lethal Force is mainly based on Court Rulings. Below are some of the cases cited when talking about using Self Defense/Lethal Force in Virginia.

Commonwealth v. Alexander, 260 Va. 238, 531 S.E.2d 567 (2000).

Montgomery v. Commonwealth 99 Va. 833, 37 S.E. 841 (1901)

McGhee v. Commonwealth, 219 Va. 560, 562, 248 S.E.2d 808, ___ (1978).
Commonwealth v. Sands, 262 Va. 724, 729, 553 S.E.2d 733, ___ (2001).
Pike v. Commonwealth, 24 Va. App. 373, 375-376, 482 S.E.2d 839, ___ (1997).
Bailey v. Commonwealth, 200 Va. 92, 96, 104 S.E.2d 28, ___ (1958).
Huffman v. Commonwealth, __, Va. App. __ S.E.2d __, (2008).
Morris v. Commonwealth, 269 Va. 127, 134-135, 607 S.E.2d 110, ___ (2005)

## Knife Laws State/Cities

**To access State/Local Knife Laws Click "Here"**

## Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

**YES** **§ 18.2-308.012**

**Note:** What is defined as carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol is a place like Friday's, Chili's or Red Lobster and you can legally carry your concealed firearm into a restaurant that serves alcohol and sit and eat without consuming. In Virginia you are not allowed to consume by law when carrying concealed. Handgunlaw.us believes you should never consume alcohol when carrying your firearm. In some states it is illegal to take even one drink while carrying a firearm.

## Chemical Sprays/Stun Gun/Higher Capacity Magazine Laws

**§ 18.2-287.4. Carrying Loaded Firearms in Public Areas Prohibited; Penalty.**

It is unlawful for any person to carry an assault firearm as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2 on or about his person on any public street, road, alley, sidewalk, public right-of-way, or in any public park or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public

The provisions of this section shall not apply to law-enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties, military personnel in the performance of their lawful official duties, any member of a cadet corps who is recognized by a public institution of higher education while such member is in the performance of sanctioned military training or such member is participating in an official ceremonial event for the Commonwealth, or to any person actually engaged in lawful hunting or lawful recreational shooting activities at an established shooting range or shooting contest. Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor

The exemptions set forth in § 18.2-308 shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the provisions of this section.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 725 of the Acts of Assembly of 2025 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of $50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice. HB 1524 2026

**Notice:** Virginia Government has signed a new bill that puts a hold until 7/1/2027 on the the so called Assault Weapons Ban and Magazine Bans.

~~§ 18.2-309.1. (New Section) Sale, Transfer, Etc., of Certain Firearms Magazines Prohibited; Penalty.~~

~~**A.** As used in this section: "Federal firearms licensee" means the same as that term is defined in § 18.2-287.4:1. "Large capacity ammunition feeding device" means a magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that has a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 15 rounds of ammunition but does not include an attached tubular device designed to accept and capable of operating only with .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.~~

~~**B.** Any person who imports, sells, barters, transfers, or purchases a large capacity ammunition feeding device is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.~~

~~**C.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to the~~

~~**(iv)** import of a large capacity ammunition feeding device by a person who lawfully purchased and possessed such large capacity ammunition feeding device prior to July 1, 2026;~~

~~**(v)** possession of a large capacity ammunition feeding device that has been permanently modified such that it cannot accept more than 15 rounds of ammunition;~~ ~~SB 749 2026~~

**§ 18.2-308.1. Possession of Firearm, Stun Weapon, or Other Weapon on School Property Prohibited;**

**A.** If any person knowingly possesses any (i) stun weapon as defined in this section; (ii) knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) weapon, including a weapon of like kind, designated in subsection A of § 18.2-308, other than a firearm; upon (a) the property of any child day center or public, private, or religious preschool, elementary, middle, or high school, including buildings and grounds; (b) that portion of any property open to the public and then exclusively used for school-sponsored functions or extracurricular activities while such functions or activities are taking place; or (c) any school bus owned or operated by any such school, he is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

2020, cc. 693, 1037, 1249.

**Note:** Carry is legal but not in schools.

## LEOSA State Information

**Virginia LEOSA Qualification** **LEOSA Information from VPOA**

**§ 18.2-308.016** Retired Law-Enforcement Officers; Carrying a Concealed Handgun (LEOSA Statute)

See the LEOSA Section on the **USA Page** at Handgunlaw.us for more LEOSA Information.

## Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

**Virginia AG - Student Carry**
**Virginia AG – Carry on College Campus**
**Virginia AG – Carry in Churches**
**Virginia AG – Carry on University of Virginia Campus**
**Virginia AG Advisory Opinion on Storage/Carrying in Vehicle Without a Permit/License**
**Virginia AG – Permit Info Is Private Info Even Previously Issued Permits**
**Virginia AG - Arming Teachers Not Allowed Under Virginia Statute (9/2018)**
**Virginia AG – Proof of Training Not Needed to Renew a Permit (4/2024)**

## Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Link to State Statutes

**Airport Carry:** **Terminal Off Limits. Parking Lot OK § 18.2-287.01.** Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Regulations § 8.4.

**Training Valid for:** **No set time limit.**

**Time Period to Establish Residency:** **Upon obtaining a Virginia Drivers License/ID.**

**Minimum Age for Permit/License:** **21**

**Permit/License Info Public Information:** **NO**

**State Reciprocity/How They Honor Other States Statute:** **§ 18.2-308.**

**State Firearm Laws:** **§ 18.2-279 thru 18.2-312**

**State Deadly Force Laws:** **None Found.**

**State Knife Laws:** **§ 18.2-308 & § 18.2-308.1 & § 18.2-311**

**Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws:** **§ 18.2-308.1, 308.2. and 312**

**Body Armor Laws:** **§ 18.2-287.2 & -288**

**Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms?** **NO** **§ 18.2-308.**

**State Safe Storage/Access by Minors Statute/s:** **VA Statutes § 18.2-56.2 - § 18.2-56.3 - § 18.2-371.1**

**Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal?** **YES** § 18.2-308 & VA Board of Wildlife Resources General Info & Hunting Regulations **No** when on waterways. See Places Off Limits.

**Red Flag Statute:** **§ 19.2-152.13 through § 19.2-152.17 & § 19.2-387.3. § 19.2-152.14**

## Notes

### What Does VA Consider A Loaded Firearm?

**Loaded firearm:** A firearm in which ammunition is "chambered or loaded in the magazine or clip and is engaged or partially engaged in a firearm."

**Loaded muzzleloader:** A muzzleloading firearm that is "capped, or has a charged pan, or has a primer or battery installed."

**Loaded crossbow:** A crossbow that is cocked and has a bolt or arrow engaged on the shooting rail or track.

### State Emergency Powers

**§ 44-146.15. Construction of Chapter.**

Nothing in this chapter is to be construed to:

**(1)** Limit, modify, or abridge the authority of the Governor to exercise any powers vested in him under other laws of this Commonwealth independent of, or in conjunction with, any provisions of this chapter;

**(2)** Interfere with dissemination of news or comment on public affairs; but any communications facility or organization, including, but not limited to, radio and television stations, wire services, and newspapers, may be required to transmit or print public service messages furnishing information or instructions in connection with actual or pending disaster;

**(3)** Empower the Governor, any political subdivision, or any other governmental authority to in any way limit *or prohibit* the rights of the people to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by Article I, Section 13 of the Constitution of Virginia or the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, including the *otherwise* lawful possession, *carrying*, *transportation*, sale, or transfer of firearms except to the extent necessary to ensure public safety in any place or facility designated or used by the Governor, any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, or any other governmental entity as an emergency shelter or for the purpose of sheltering persons;

**(4)** Affect the jurisdiction or responsibilities of police forces, firefighting forces, units of the armed forces of the United States or any personnel thereof, when on active duty; but state, local and interjurisdictional agencies for emergency services shall place reliance upon such forces in the event of declared disasters; or

**(5)** Interfere with the course of conduct of a labor dispute except that actions otherwise authorized by this chapter or other laws may be taken when necessary to forestall or mitigate imminent or existing danger to public health or safety. 2012, cc. 42, 158.

**Note:** Federal Law can apply if the state is receiving monetary and/or other assistance from the Federal Government. See **US Code 42-5207** for Federal Law as it applies to States of Emergencies. The state quoted code may also not be all of the law on Emergency Powers held by the state. You should read the entire code on Emergency Powers etc for this state by following the link to the state code.

**Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.**

**Virginia 18 Y/O § 18.2-308.7**

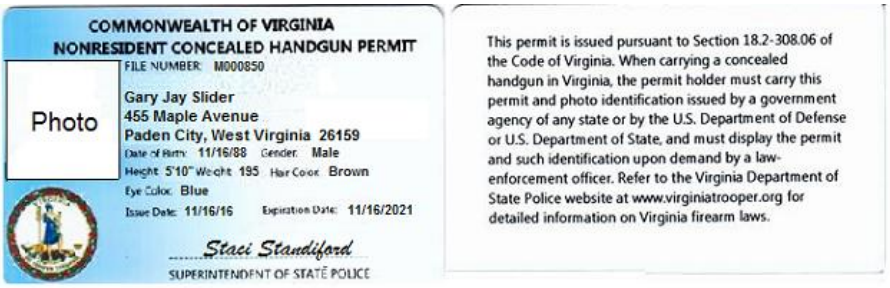
This is the minimum age for possessing and transporting a handgun unloaded and secured in a vehicle without any type of permit/license to carry firearms.

**Note:** In some states Possession and Transportation CAN be very restrictive in that you can ONLY possess and transport a handgun to and from a Shooting Range, Gun Shop, property you own or other places you can legally possess a handgun. Some states do not have this restriction.

This is not the last word on possession and transporting of handguns in this, or any other state. Study your state law further for more information. See "RV/Car Carry" Section Above for more information.

## Permit/License Image






These images have been digitally assembled from 2 or more images. They may not be 100% accurate but give a good representation of the actual Permit/Licenses.

## Updates to this Page

Archive of Previous Updates 4

**10/15/2025** – All External Links, Statutes and Admin Rules Quoted Have Been Checked and are up to Date and Point to the Most Up to Date Published Edition of that Statute/Admin Rule and/or Document.
**11/4/2025** - Manassas Park City Added to City Listing in Places Off Limits Section.
**1/8/2026** – Link to Video on Open Carry Added to Open Carry Section.
**1/20/2026** - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
**3/20/2026** - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
**6/7/2026** – All Links Checked.
**7/1/2026** – Notice put at top Page Stating the VA Law on Banning So Called Assault Weapons and Mag Bans Put on Hold until 7/1/2027 due to Pushback and Lawsuits. § 18.2-287.4 & 18.2-309.1 Added to Updated in Chem Sprays/Stun Guns/Higher Cap Mags Per & SB 749. § 19.2-386.28 Added to Places Off Limits SB 749**.** § 18.2-308.7:1+ Added to RV/Car Carry Section per SB 496.
**9/5/2026** – All Links Checked.