The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
One Ashburton Place, Room 2133
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Tel: (617) 727-7775
TTY Tel: (617) 727-6618
Fax: (617) 727-4764
www.mass.gov/eopss

MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

GINA K. KWON
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Law Enforcement Agencies, Licensing Authorities, Licensed Firearms Dealers, Firearms Instructors, LTC and FID holders, and all other Interested Parties

FROM: The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

DATE: September 18, 2026

RE: *An Act Modernizing Firearm Laws* – Guidance #5

**This Guidance does not constitute legal advice to any individual or entity. Questions involving fact-specific scenarios and legal questions should be directed to competent legal counsel.*

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) and its agencies continue to work on implementing Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024, *An Act Modernizing Firearm Laws* (*Act*), that took effect on October 2, 2024. We understand that questions remain about the new law, and therefore we will continue to provide updated guidance periodically as new systems and policies are developed and various provisions of the new law go into effect.

Below is a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" which includes the updated answers previously provided in Guidance #1, Guidance #2, Guidance #3, and Guidance #4.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the new BFS course be ready?

a. MSP has approved numerous courses that satisfy the academic requirements of the new law and continues to review submitted courses for inclusion on the list of approved courses. The list of approved courses is located here: Microsoft Word - Approved Basic Firearms Safety Course List Updated 06.05.2026.

2. If I was issued an FID or LTC after August 1, 2024, but before the law became effective on October 2, 2024, will I have to take a new BFS course and complete the live fire requirement when I renew my license?

    a. No, unless your application for the permit or license was submitted after August 1, 2024. In that case, you will have to complete a short, supplemental online course provided by the Massachusetts State Police. Live fire will not be required.

3. I am a BFS instructor. What are the new requirements for the issuance of satisfactory basic safety firearms certificate?

    a. Course instructors are now required to enter class rosters and generate certificates within the Instructor Portal, which is available within the MIRCS Unified Gun Portal. This system went live on August 11, 2026. Students with a passing score will be able to download their certificates also within the Portal.

4. Can I renew or apply for a new resident alien permit to possess non-large capacity rifles and shotguns?

    a. No. This is no longer a valid license type.

5. What types of licenses exist under the new law?

    a. G.L c. 140, §122: Dealer License to buy/sell/rent/lease firearms and ammunition (Section 33)
    b. G.L. c. 140, §122: Gunsmith License (Section 33)
    c. G.L. c. 140, §122B(a): Gun Club License to sell ammunition (Section 34)
    d. G.L. c. 140, §122B(b): Gun Club License to possess/store/use large capacity firearms, ammunition, and feeding devices (Section 34)
    e. G.L. c. 140, §122D: Self-Defense Spray Permit (Section 36)
    f. G.L. c. 140, §129B: Firearms Identification Card (Section 44)
    g. G.L. c. 140, §131: License to Carry Firearms (Section 49)
    h. G.L. c. 140, §131F: Non-resident License to Carry Firearms

6. Can I apply for or renew a LTC in the town where I own a business?

    a. No. Applicants can only apply for or renew a firearms license in the city/town where they reside, or a non-resident of the Commonwealth through the Firearms Records Bureau.

7. Will I need to register all my firearms?

    a. Yes. However, you will not be required to register your firearms into the new registration system until 10/28/2026. If you have already registered your firearms on the current transaction portal, you will not have to re-register them when the new system goes live.

8. I am moving to Massachusetts – do I need to register my firearms?

    a. Yes. A new resident of Massachusetts has 60 days to obtain a firearms license. Firearms must be registered once the license is issued.

9. When will the FCAB convene?

    a. The FCAB held its first meeting on November 8, 2024, at the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services offices in Chelsea, MA, and continues to meet on a monthly basis.

10. Are firearms dealers permitted to sell handguns currently on the "Approved Firearms Roster"?

    a. Yes. The Secretary of EOPSS, pursuant to section 131 ¾ of chapter 140 of the General Laws, has approved the "Approved Firearms Roster," in its current form. Licensed firearms dealers may continue to sell firearms contained on the rosters.[1] Furthermore, the Secretary has determined, with the advice and counsel of the FCAB, that shotguns and rifles ("long-guns") do not need to be on an approved roster to be legally sold in MA. Firearms dealers may continue to sell shotguns and rifles so long as they are not otherwise prohibited in Massachusetts.

11. I am a firearms dealer. Am I required to complete training?

    a. Yes. Firearms dealers are now required to complete an online training before they can apply for or renew their dealer or gunsmith license. The training course is available here: https://public.eopsselearning.com/login/index.php

12. Will DCJIS be updating the MIRCS system to reflect the requirements of the new law?

    a. Yes. DCJIS has updated the MIRCS system based on data shared with its agency by the Trial Court and other agencies.

13. When will the section 12 database, as required by Section 12 of the *Act*, be operational?

    a. This system went live on October 3, 2024.

[1] The currently approved rosters may be found here: https://www.mass.gov/lists/approved-firearms-rosters.

14. How will the recording of ammunition sales be implemented?

    a. An electronic record of ammunition sales will not be required by DCJIS at this time. A written record that complies with the requirements as specified in Section 37 of the *Act* will suffice.

15. May nonresident hunters under 18 years old hunt in Massachusetts?

    a. Yes, section 129C(g) of chapter 140 states, "a person may furnish a minor or person under 21 years of age with a firearm and ammunition for hunting, instruction, recreation and participation in shooting sports provided that the person furnishing the firearm and ammunition holds the appropriate license, permit, or card…" (Section 45). However, section 130 ½ of chapter 140 requires that these activities be performed "while under the supervision" of a valid license holder and with the consent of the minor's parent or guardian.

16. May nonresidents who are at least 18 years of age possess rifles and shotguns to hunt in the Commonwealth?

    a. Yes, so long as the rifles and shotguns are not large capacity or semi-automatic and the person holds a nonresident hunting license or a hunting license or permit lawfully issued from their state of residence, which has substantially similar hunting license requirements to those in the Commonwealth as determined by the Colonel of the State Police[2] (Section 45).

17. Who should I contact with specific questions about hunting in the Commonwealth?

    a. For additional information concerning hunting in the Commonwealth, please visit the Commonwealth's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife website found here: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/hunting-with-a-firearm-in-massachusetts#firearms-licensing.

18. Are nonresident business owners eligible for an LTC?

    a. No, pursuant to section 131(a) of chapter 140, nonresident business owners are no longer eligible for a license to carry.

19. May a nonresident with a temporary license under section 131F of chapter 140 purchase firearms or ammunition in the Commonwealth?

[2] The restriction on large capacity and semi-automatic rifles and shotguns would not apply if the nonresident hunter under the age of 21 is hunting pursuant to sections 130 ½ and 129C(g) of chapter 140 as described in the answer to question 15.

a. No.

20. Does the grace period for an expired LTC under §121F(s) of chapter 140 apply to temporary LTC's?

    a. No.

21. Is an LTC/FID required to purchase black powder in the Commonwealth?

    a. Yes, based on the definition of ammunition found in section 121 of chapter 140. An FID or LTC is not required to possess or carry black powder for use in an antique firearm.

22. Does the definition of "secured in a locked container" in section 121 of chapter 140 include a locked vehicle?

    a. No. However, the definition does include a locked, secure container inside of a vehicle, such as a locked glovebox, locked console, or locked trunk inaccessible from the passenger compartment.

23. Has EOPSS promulgated regulations governing the registration of firearms?

    a. Yes. Registration regulations may be found here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/501-cmr-19-registration-of-firearms/download

24. Has EOPSS promulgated regulations governing the serialization of firearms?

    a. Yes. Serialization regulations may be found here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/501-cmr-20-serialization-of-firearms/download

25. If my firearm already has a serial number, am I required to request one from the MIRCS Serialization System?

    a. No.

26. How do I know if my firearms are registered?

    a. If you have an FA10 form from a MA gun dealer or personal registration or transfer, then your firearm has been registered. If you are unsure, you may request the information through the Firearms Records Bureau for a fee:

https://www.mass.gov/firearms-services - see "Additional Resources." Note, there is no penalty for registering your firearm again.

27. If I have registered a frame or receiver, do I need to re-register the firearm once it's been built?

    a. Yes.

28. Do I need to have an FFL to apply for a License to Sell Firearms or Ammunition if I intend to only sell ammunition?

    a. No, you may enter "AMMO ONLY" in the FFL field on the application.

29. If I inherited 10 firearms, how many may I transfer to another individual?

    a. There is no limit to the number of firearms a person may inherit, however, a person may only transfer up to 4 firearms per year as a personal transfer, even if the firearms are inherited, pursuant to G.L. c. 140, §128A(c). Additional firearms may be transferred through a gun dealer.

30. I had to surrender my firearms to the police department. How many can I transfer to another individual?

    a. There is no limit on the number of firearms you can transfer to another individual after you are required to surrender.

31. Do firearms manufactured prior to October 22, 1968, need to be serialized.

    a. No, they are exempt.

32. Do firearms that are produced by federally licensed manufacturers that are not for sale in the Commonwealth need to be serialized?

    a. No, they are exempt.

33. Do firearms that are produced by federally licensed manufacturers that are not for sale in the Commonwealth need to be registered?

    a. No, they are exempt.

34. Do I need to register my firearm purchase in the portal if I'm buying from a dealer, or will the dealer record the transaction?

    a. No, the transaction will be recorded by the dealer.

35. When do I have to start using the new serialization and registration portal?

    a. The serialization and registration systems are live and may be accessed through the MIRCS portal here: https://www.mass.gov/how-to/record-a-private-firearms-sale-or-registration. However, individuals are not required to comply with the registration and serialization requirements set forth in sections 121B and 121C of chapter 140 until **October 28, 2026**, pursuant to section 157 of *An Act Modernizing Firearm Laws.*

36. Under §129C(k) – what does "traveling through the commonwealth" mean?

    a. Going to your workplace would not be "traveling through the commonwealth" under Commonwealth v. Marquis, 494 Mass. 434 (2025). Pursuant to subsection (k):

> A nonresident may carry a firearm on their person while in a vehicle lawfully traveling through the commonwealth; provided, however, that the firearm shall remain in the vehicle and if the firearm is outside its owner's direct control it shall be stored in the vehicle in accordance with sections 131C and 131L. Brief stops incidental to travel appear to be permissible provided the firearm is properly secured in the vehicle.

37. Can a non-resident with a Massachusetts non-resident hunting license bring a non-large capacity, non-semi-automatic rifle or shotgun into Massachusetts?

    a. Yes, pursuant to section 129C(j) of chapter 140 to hunt during hunting season.

38. Can a non-resident bring a non-large capacity, non-semi-automatic rifle or shotgun into Massachusetts for use on a shooting or firing range?

    a. Yes, pursuant to section 129C(j)(ii) & (iii).

39. Is a non-resident required to register their firearm while traveling in or through Massachusetts, or while possessing a rifle or shotgun under one of the exemptions contained in section 129C?

    a. No.

40. Is a new or subsequent basic firearms safety course required for an FID Cardholder who applies for an LTC?

    a. It depends. If the FID Card was obtained with a Massachusetts Hunter Education certificate, a state-approved basic firearms safety course will be required. If the FID Card was obtained with a state-approved BFS course, repeating a BFS course is not required when upgrading from an FID to an LTC.

41. An FID Cardholder may no longer purchase, own, or possess a semiautomatic rifle or shotgun except that section 153 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024 allows the Cardholder to possess any firearms they were authorized to possess when the Card was issued until it expires or is suspended or revoked. Does this temporary exemption limit the Cardholder who owns a semiautomatic rifle or shotgun to possession only, prohibiting their use for hunting or target shooting?

    a. Yes. The exemption in section 153 specifically says possession, as compared to Chapter 140, §129B(c), which says a Cardholder may purchase, transfer, possess, and carry rifles and shotguns that are not large capacity or semi-automatic.

42. May an FID Cardholder who owns a semiautomatic rifle or shotgun, and is exempted by section 153 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024 until the Card expires, and who does not want or is not eligible for an LTC, sell or transfer the rifle or shotgun?

    a. Yes. Cardholders with semiautomatic rifles or shotguns who do not obtain an LTC before their FID Card expires should relinquish possession of the rifle or shotgun through sale or transfer to a licensed dealer or properly licensed person, surrender to an appropriate law enforcement agency, or transfer the firearm out-of-state.

43. When are law enforcement agencies required to record seized and surrendered firearms?

    a. Firearms that are seized or surrendered pursuant to an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) must be recorded in CJIS. Otherwise, the seized or surrendered firearms may be recorded but the law does not mandate it.

44. Are law enforcement agencies required to register their agency-owned firearms?

    a. No, the law does not require it. However, MIRCS does have the capability to do this and agencies are encouraged to do so within CJIS.