

By Ms. Hildt of Amesbury, petition of Barbara Hildt and other members for legislation to require applicants for permits to purchase firearms and licenses to carry firearms to pass a handgun safety training program. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT REQUIRING APPLICANTS FOR PERMIT TO PURCHASE FIREARMS AND LICENSES TO CARRY FIREARMS, TO PASS A HANDGUN SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 140, Section 131 of the General Laws,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the
3 following: —

4 Section 131. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall prepare
5 a safety examination, to be comprised of both written and
6 practical examination in the safe handling and use of firearms,
7 to be administered to each applicant before granting a permit to
8 purchase firearms, or a license to carry firearms. Said examination
9 shall be administered by those licensing authorities designated by
10 said commissioner as having adequate facilities to administer such
11 an examination need not be renewed.

12 The fee for the administration of said examination shall be
13 determined by the chief of police or the board or officer having
14 control of the police in a city or town or persons authorized by
15 them, for the purpose of defraying material and manpower costs,
16 provided that said fee shall not exceed forty dollars. Said fee shall
17 be paid to the city or town, designated by said commissioner to
18 administer said examination for the cost incurred by them for the
19 administration of said examination.

20 Said examination shall be administered by designating licensing
21 authorities as often as it deemed necessary by them to service

22 applicants, provided that said examination shall be administered
23 by each of said licensing authorities at least once every three
24 months.

25 No person shall be allowed to take such examination unless he/
26 she can produce evidence, in the form of a valid license to operate
27 motor vehicles in the Commonwealth, or a statement from a
28 licensed physician, that said person has eyesight correctable to
29 twenty-fourty eyesight.

30 No person who fails to successfully pass said examination may
31 re-take it without first successfully completing a course of
32 instruction, approved by said commissioner, on the safe use and
33 handling of firearms. Said commissioner is hereby authorized to
34 approve courses of instruction on the safe use and handling of
35 firearms, conducted by designated licensing authorities.

36 Said course shall be no less than six hours nor longer than eight
37 hours in duration. Any veteran, person serving in the military,
38 or person issued a valid permit prior to January first, nineteen
39 hundred and eighty-seven shall not be required to complete said
40 course.

1 SECTION 2. Section 131 of chapter 140 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by chapter 481 of the acts of 1986, is
3 hereby amended by striking out the second paragraph and adding
4 in its place the following: —

5 After such investigation has been completed, said chief, board,
6 officer, commissioner of public safety, or anyone authorized by
7 them, respectively, may, except for 1) an alien whose license to
8 carry firearms may only be issued under the provisions of section
9 one hundred and thirty-one F, 2) a person who has been convicted
10 of a felony or of the unlawful use, possession, or sale of a narcotic
11 or harmful drugs, 3) a minor under the age of eighteen, or 4) a
12 person who cannot submit proof that he/she has successfully
13 completed, within six months prior to applying for a license to
14 carry firearms pursuant to this section, the written and practical
15 examination prepared by the department of public safety, issue
16 to a person residing or having a place of business within their
17 respective jurisdictions, a license to carry firearms in the
18 Commonwealth if it appears that the applicant is a suitable person

19 to be so licensed, and that the applicant has good reason to fear
20 injury to his or her person or property, or for any other proper
21 purpose, including the carrying of firearms for use in target
22 practice only.

