

2016 -- H 7525

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LC004720
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO WEAPONS

Introduced By: Representatives MacBeth, McLaughlin, Morin, and Messier

Date Introduced: February 10, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 11-47 of the General Laws entitled "Weapons" is hereby amended
2 by adding thereto the following section:

3 **11-47-60.4. Prohibition of knives on school grounds. -- (a) Discretion to administrators**
4 **and school committees to allow exceptions. No student of any school shall have in their**
5 **possession a knife of any length and of any description on school grounds; provided, a building or**
6 **district administrator or school committee shall have authority to exercise their discretion, and**
7 **authorize exceptions to this prohibition on an as-needed basis. In exercising this discretion, the**
8 **administrator or school committee may consider an academic, educational, or culinary purpose**
9 **for which a knife would be used, if allowed. For purposes of illustration only, a building or**
10 **district administrator, or school committee, may elect to authorize the use of a knife by a student**
11 **in school for:**

12 **(1) Dissection or cutting in an academic class;**

13 **(2) Instruction on the proper use of a knife in a culinary or life-skills class;**

14 **(3) Vocational class instruction; or**

15 **(4) For use by students in eating food during the school day. Provided, the above list is**
16 **not comprehensive.**

17 **(b) This section shall not prohibit a student in a school who is also an apprentice from**
18 **possessing a knife on school grounds while the student is working with a tradesman or other**
19 **mentor, and the possession of the knife is pursuant to the student's apprenticeship.**

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(c) As used herein:

(1) "Knife" means and includes any instrument composed of a blade fixed into a handle, used for cutting or stabbing, razors and cutting tools commonly known as box cutters are deemed included within this definition. The term "knife" does not include one-piece plastic knives that are commonly used for cutting and eating food.

(2) "School grounds" has the same meaning as set forth in §11-47-60.

(d) Any student who is in violation of the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor, and be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would provide that no student of any school would have in their possession a
2 knife of any length and of any description on school grounds. The act would also give a building
3 or district administrator, or a school committee, authority to exercise their discretion to make
4 exceptions to this prohibition for various academic and culinary purposes. The act would also
5 define what a knife is for purposes of this law, and provides that violations of the law constitute a
6 misdemeanor.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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