

2023 -- H 5695

LC001142

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Hull, Baginski, Vella-Wilkinson, Finkelman,
Place, Dawson, Azzinaro, Costantino, and Lima

Date Introduced: February 17, 2023

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-47-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons"
2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-47-17. Qualifications required of law enforcement officers appointed after June**
4 **17, 1959.**

5 Except as provided in § 11-47-15.3, all law enforcement officers of this state and its
6 political subdivisions whose permanent appointment shall take place after June 17, 1959, will be
7 required to qualify with the pistol or revolver with which they are armed prior to their permanent
8 appointment, that qualification to be the same as that required in § 11-47-15. Town constables or
9 police constables, special officers, and all law enforcement officers, who by law are authorized to
10 carry side arms and whose appointments are made on a recurring basis, will be required to qualify
11 not later than one year following the date of enactment of this section and their commissions or
12 warrants will be plainly marked or stamped "QUALIFIED WITH PISTOL OR REVOLVER" and
13 will be signed and dated by the certifying authority attesting to that fact. The failure of any law
14 enforcement officer to qualify under the provisions of this section revokes his or her privilege of
15 carrying a pistol or revolver, whether concealed or not, on or about his or her person. All law
16 enforcement officers of this state and its political subdivisions will repeat this qualification ~~at~~
17 ~~periods of not more than one year~~ two (2) times per year at intervals of at least four (4) months,
18 except for correctional officers who must repeat this qualification one time per year. Provided
19 further, effective January 1, 2024, the qualification requirements pursuant to this section shall

1 [include a nighttime low light/no light qualification component which shall simulate dusk to dawn](#)
2 [lighting conditions which conditions may be artificially produced indoors.](#)

3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would mandate that police officers qualify in the use of firearms two (2) times per
2 year instead of one time annually and correction officers qualify annually under lowlight/no light
3 conditions.

4 This act would take effect on July 1, 2023.

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