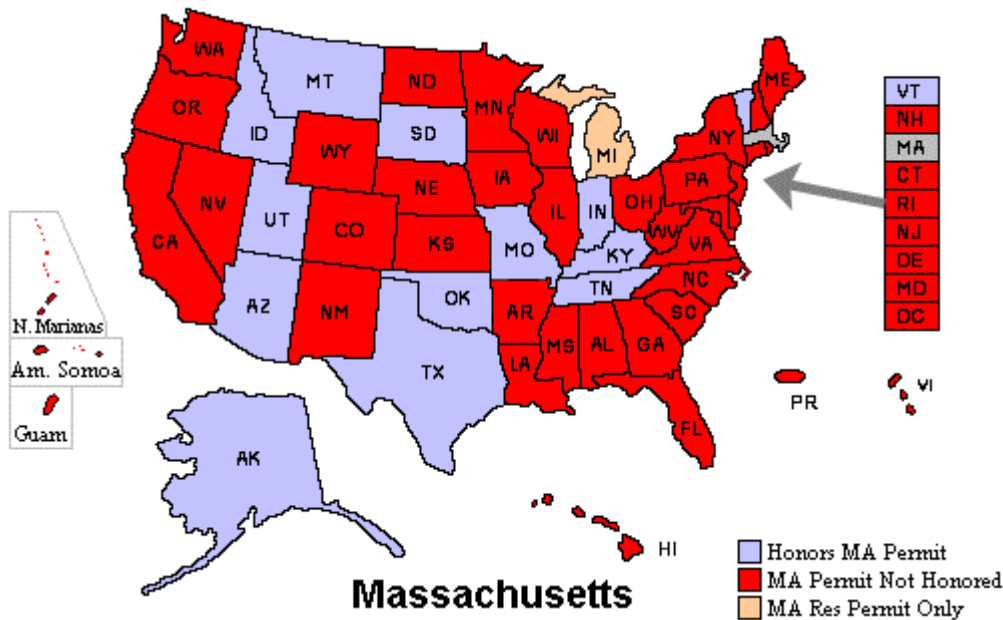


# Massachusetts

May Issue

Must Inform Officer: **NO**



## Links

[State CCW Site](#)

[Non Res Application](#)

[CCW Application](#)

[Police CCW FAQ Site](#)

[State Statutes](#)

[State Admin Rules](#)

[State Reciprocity Info](#)

[State Attorney General](#)

[2<sup>nd</sup> CCW Info Site](#)

[Secretary of State](#)

Last Updated: 12/17/09

## Permits/Licenses This State Honors

Massachusetts does not honor any other state permits.

## How to Apply for A Permit

Local Police issue Resident permits. You should check with your local police as to the criteria you have to follow to obtain either a Class A or Class B license.

### Class A

The Class A LTC permits the purchase, possession and carrying of large-capacity handguns, rifles, shotguns and feeding devices.

**THIS IS THE ONLY LICENSE THAT ALLOWS THE CONCEALED CARRYING OF FIREARMS.**

### Class B

The Class B LTC permits the purchase, possession and carrying of non-large capacity handguns and large-capacity rifles and shotguns.

### Class A and Class B LTC Information

- Your current LTC will be valid until its stated expiration date.
- New applicants must be 21 years of age or older to obtain a Class A or Class B LTC.
- The new Class A and Class B LTCs are valid for 5 years.
- The fee for a Class A or Class B LTC is \$100.00.
- Strict new eligibility requirements now apply. Please contact your local police officials for details.

**Chapter 140: Section 131. Licenses to carry firearms; Class A and B; conditions and restrictions**

**Section 131.** All licenses to carry firearms shall be designated Class A or Class B, and the issuance and possession of any such license shall be subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

- (a) A Class A license shall entitle a holder thereof to purchase, rent, lease, borrow, possess and carry: (i) firearms, including large capacity firearms, and feeding devices and ammunition therefor, for all lawful purposes, subject to such restrictions relative to the possession, use or carrying of firearms as the licensing authority deems proper; and (ii) rifles and shotguns, including large capacity weapons, and feeding devices and ammunition therefor, for all lawful purposes; provided, however, that the licensing authority may impose such restrictions relative to the possession, use or carrying of large capacity rifles and shotguns as it deems proper. A violation of a restriction imposed by the licensing authority under the provisions of this paragraph shall be cause for suspension or revocation and shall, unless otherwise provided, be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000; provided, however, that the provisions of section 10 of chapter 269 shall not apply to such violation.

### [MA Non Resident Application and Instructions](#)

## Non-Resident Permits

Beginning August 1st, 2009, all new and renewal non-resident temporary licenses to carry firearms (LTC) in Massachusetts will be issued through the Massachusetts Instant Record Check System (MIRCS). MIRCS is a computer based application used to manage, process and monitor firearms licensing statewide.

What this means for applicants:

- (1) Applicants will no longer be required to obtain fingerprints from their local police departments;
- (2) Applicants will no longer be required to obtain a passport size photograph;
- (3) An LTC will be issued on a wallet-sized, digitally printed, plastic card;
- (4) To complete the application process, all applicants will be required to appear in person at the following:

Firearms Records Bureau  
Criminal History Systems Board  
200 Arlington Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Any applicant who submits an application to the Firearms Records Bureau (FRB) after June 1st, 2009, will be contacted by FRB staff to set up an appointment for final LTC processing in Chelsea, MA.

The Firearms Records Bureau (FRB) may apply certain restrictions on a non-resident temporary license to carry firearms. These restrictions detail the terms and conditions that govern the possession of a firearm under the license pursuant to G.L. c. 140, §131F.

The following restrictions may be applied to a non-resident temporary license to carry firearms:

NONE – the LTC is issued for all lawful purposes with no restrictions.

EMPLOYMENT – restricts possession to business owner engaged in business activities or to an employee while engaged in work related activities, and maintaining proficiency, where the employer requires carry of a firearm (i.e. armored car, security guard, etc.). Includes travel to and from activity location.

**TARGET & HUNTING** – restricts possession to the purpose of lawful recreational shooting or competition; for use in the lawful pursuit of game animals and birds; for personal protection in the home; and for the purpose of collecting (other than machine guns). Includes travel to and from activity location

**SPORTING** – restricts possession to the purpose of lawful recreational shooting or competition; for use in the lawful pursuit of game animals and birds; for personal protection in the home; for the purpose of collecting (other than machine guns); and for outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, camping, cross country skiing, or similar activities. Includes travel to and from activity location.

**OTHER** – Restrictions are based upon the information provided in the license application. Please ensure that you provide a detailed reason for requesting the issuance of a license in Massachusetts. Include information regarding how and where you intend to possess or use a firearm and your knowledge and training in Massachusetts firearms laws.

## [MA Forms and Application](#)

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

- Courthouses
- MGL 269.10 (j) elementary or secondary school, college or university

## **Part I. Administration of The Government**

### **Title XIV. Public Ways and Works**

#### **Chapter 90. Motor Vehicles and Aircraft**

#### **Chapter 90: Section 61. Logan Airport security zone; access; penalties**

**Section 61. (a)** Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, as a matter of public safety and security, there is hereby created a security zone bordering the General Edward Lawrence Logan Airport that shall include the area between the mean high water line of said airport and a line measured 500 feet seaward of and parallel to said mean high water line from Wood Island Basin to the easterly end of Jeffries Cove as shown on a plan entitled “Plan of General Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport Security Zone” prepared by Massachusetts Port Authority Capital Programs Department, April 2002.

### Carry In State Parks/State & National Forests/WMA/Road Side Rest Areas

#### **Carry Allowed in these Areas:**

**State Parks:**    **YES**

**State/National Forests:**    **YES**

**WMA's**    **YES** 321 CMR 3:01    **NO** Wildlife Sanctuaries 321.7:01

**Road Side Rest Areas:**    **YES** per MSP

### RV/Car Carry Without A Permit/Lice

You can not carry a loaded firearm of any type inside any vehicle in Massachusetts without a class A permit issued by the state of Massachusetts.

### State Preemption

**CHAPTER 43B.** Home Rule Procedures

[www.handgunlaw.us](http://www.handgunlaw.us)

## **Chapter 43B: Section 13.** Exercise of powers and functions by municipalities

**Section 13.** Any city or town may, by the adoption, amendment or repeal of local ordinances or by-laws, exercise any power or function which the general court has power to confer upon it, which is not inconsistent with the constitution or laws enacted by the general court in conformity with powers reserved to the general court by section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to the Constitution and which is not denied, either expressly or by clear implication, to the city or town by its charter. Whenever appropriations, appointments, orders, regulations or other legislative or executive actions within the scope of any such ordinance or by-law are necessary in the exercise of any power or function authorized by such ordinance or by-law, any such actions which are to be taken by a city council or town meeting may be taken by ordinance, by-law, resolution, order or vote, and any such actions which are to be taken by executive officers may be taken in any appropriate manner, subject, however, as to both such categories, to all provisions of the ordinance or by-law in question, the city or town charter, and other applicable law. Any requirement that an ordinance or by-law be entitled as such, or that it contain the word “ordained,” “enacted” or words of similar import shall not affect the validity of any action which is required to be taken by ordinance or by-law. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit any city or town, by ordinance or by-law, to exercise any power or function which is inconsistent with any general law enacted by the general court before November eighth, nineteen hundred and sixty-six which applies alike to all cities, or to all towns, or to all cities and towns, or to a class of not fewer than two. No exercise of a power or function denied to the city or town, expressly or by clear implication, by special laws having the force of a charter under section nine of said Article, and no change in the composition, mode of election or appointment, or terms of office of the legislative body, the mayor or city manager or the board of selectmen or town manager, may be accomplished by by-law or ordinance. Such special laws may be made inapplicable, and such changes may be accomplished, only under procedures for the adoption, revision or amendment of a charter under this chapter.

## **Deadly Force Laws**

**Chapter 233: Section 23F.** Admissibility of past physical, sexual or psychological abuse of defendant  
**Chapter 278: Section 8A.** Killing or injuring a person unlawfully in a dwelling; defense

## **Knife Laws State/Cities**

**To access State/Local Knife Laws Click [“Here”](#)**

## **Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol**

**YES**

**Note: What is defined as carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol is a place like Friday’s or Red Lobster. This does not mean a bar or the bar area of a restaurant. 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**

**Large Capacity Feeding Devices:**

[www.handgunlaw.us](http://www.handgunlaw.us)

The sale, offering for sale, transfer or possession of large capacity feeding devices for assault weapons (as defined under Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 140, § 121), is prohibited unless such device was lawfully possessed on September 13, 1994. Ch. 140, § 131M.

Under Massachusetts law, a “large capacity feeding device” is defined as: “(i) a fixed or detachable magazine, box, drum, feed strip or similar device capable of accepting, or that can be readily converted to accept, more than ten rounds of ammunition or more than five shotgun shells; or (ii) a large capacity ammunition feeding device as defined in the federal Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. section 921(a)(31) as appearing in such section on September 13, 1994.” Ch. 140, § 121. This does not include “an attached tubular device designed to accept, and capable of operating only with, .22 caliber ammunition.” *Id.*

Large capacity feeding devices designed for large capacity rifles and shotguns may be lawfully possessed by a holder of a Class A or B license to carry. Ch. 140, § 131(a), (b)(ii). Large capacity feeding devices designed for handguns may be possessed only by persons holding a Class A license to carry. Ch. 140, § 131(a).

The Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety (“Secretary”) is required to compile and publish a roster of large capacity handguns, rifles, shotguns and feeding devices for those firearms, as those weapons and devices are defined in Ch. 140, § 121. Ch. 140, § 131 3/4. The Secretary may amend the roster upon his or her own initiative, upon the initiative of the Gun Control Advisory Board under Ch. 140, § 131 1/2, or upon the petition of any person seeking to place a weapon on or remove a weapon from the roster. Ch. 140, § 131 3/4.

### **Stun Devices/Electric Weapons**

**Chapter 140: Section 131J** Stun Devices/Electric Weapons are illegal in Massachusetts.

### **Chemical Sprays:**

**Chapter 140, Section 121** Massachusetts residents may only purchase defense sprays from licensed Firearms Dealers in that state. The licensing authority is the local chief of police or other persons authorized by the locality.

### **Chapter 140: Section 129B.**

(6) ... A firearm identification card shall be valid for the purpose of purchasing and possessing chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate.

## **LEOSA State Information**

[Massachusetts LEOSA Info 1](#)

[Massachusetts LEOSA Info 2](#)

[Massachusetts LEOSA Info 3](#)

[Massachusetts LEOSA Approved Instructors](#)

[Massachusetts Approved LEOSA Courses](#)

## **Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases**

Handgunlaw.us can find no AG Opinions or Court Cases concerning the carrying of firearms. This does not mean there are no AG Opinions or Court Cases. We could just not find any.

## Airport Carry/Misc. Information

**Airport Carry:** See Places off Limits Even with a Permit/License Above.

**Training Valid for:** No time period specified.

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

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

**Permit/License Info Public Information:** Not known at this time.

**State Fire arm Laws:** 140-129B thru 140-131P

**State Deadly Force Laws:** Chpt 278 -8A & 231-85U

**State Knife Laws:** 269-10 thru 269-12 & 71-37H

**Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws:** 140.121 & 140-131J

**Body Armor Laws:** 269-10D

**Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms?** NO 140-131

## Updates to this Page

2/28/09 – Places off Limits Updated with Logan Airport Security Zone.

8/16/09 – LEOSA Info Updated. Non Resident Info Updated.

8/20/09 - All Links checked and updated if needed.

8/25/09 – New link to Non Resident Application and Instructions added.

9/3/09 – Chemical Spray requires FID Card to purchase info added.

10/26/09 - Format Error Repaired

12/1/09 – Link Repaired

12/17/09 – Link to Non Resident Permit Application Added