

LEGISLATIVE BILL 807

Approved by the Governor April 18, 2012

Introduced by Lautenbaugh, 18.

FOR AN ACT relating to firearms; to amend sections 29-820, 69-2435, 69-2436, 69-2439, and 69-2443, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 69-2433, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2011; to change provisions relating to the disposition of firearms seized or held by a law enforcement agency; to change application requirements for concealed handgun permits as prescribed; to change provisions relating to revocation of concealed handgun permits for certain violations; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 29-820, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

29-820 (1) Unless other disposition is specifically provided by law, when property seized or held is no longer required as evidence, it shall be disposed of by the law enforcement agency on such showing as the law enforcement agency may deem adequate, as follows:

(a) Property stolen, embezzled, obtained by false pretenses, or otherwise obtained unlawfully from the rightful owner thereof shall be restored to the owner;

(b) Money shall be restored to the owner unless it was used in unlawful gambling or lotteries or it was used or intended to be used to facilitate a violation of Chapter 28, article 4, in which case the money shall be forfeited and disposed of as required by Article VII, section 7, of the Constitution of Nebraska;

(c) Property which is unclaimed or the ownership of which is unknown shall be sold at a public auction held by the officer having custody thereof and the net proceeds disposed of as provided in subdivision (b) of this subsection, as shall any money which is unclaimed or the ownership of which is unknown;

(d) Except as provided in ~~subdivision (2)(b)~~ subsection (2) of this section, articles of contraband shall be destroyed; and

(e) ~~Except as provided in subdivision (2)(a) of this section, firearms, firearms, ammunition, explosives, bombs, and like devices which have been used in the commission of crime shall be destroyed; and-~~

(f) Firearms which have come into the law enforcement agency's possession through a seizure or otherwise and (i) have not been used in the commission of crime, (ii) have not been defaced or altered in any manner that violates any state or federal law, (iii) may have a lawful use and be lawfully possessed, and (iv) are not subject to section 29-440 shall be restored to the owner.

(2) When the following property is seized or held and is no longer required as evidence, such property shall be disposed of on order of the court as the court may deem adequate:

~~(a) Firearms which may have a lawful use; and~~

~~(b) Goods which are declared to be contraband but may reasonably be returned to a condition or state in which such goods may be lawfully used, possessed, or distributed by the public.~~

(3) When any animal as defined by section 28-1008 is seized or held and is no longer required as evidence, such animal may be disposed of in such manner as the court may direct. The court may consider adoption alternatives through humane societies or comparable institutions and the protection of such animal's welfare. For a humane society or comparable institution to be considered as an adoption alternative under this subsection, it must first be licensed by the Department of Agriculture as having passed the inspection requirements in the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act and paid the fee for inspection under the act. The court may prohibit an adopting or purchasing party from selling such animal for a period not to exceed one year.

(4) Unless otherwise provided by law, all other property shall be disposed of in such manner as the court in its sound discretion shall direct.

Sec. 2. Section 69-2433, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2011, is amended to read:

69-2433 An applicant shall:

(1) Be at least twenty-one years of age;

(2) Not be prohibited from purchasing or possessing a handgun by 18 U.S.C. 922, as such section existed on January 1, 2005;

(3) Possess the same powers of eyesight as required under section 60-4,118 for a Class O operator's license. If an applicant does not possess a current Nebraska motor vehicle operator's license, the applicant may present a current optometrist's or ophthalmologist's statement certifying the vision reading obtained when testing the applicant. If such certified vision reading meets the vision requirements prescribed by section 60-4,118 for a Class O operator's license, the vision requirements of this subdivision shall have been met;

(4) ~~Not have pled guilty to, not have pled nolo contendere to, or not have been convicted of a felony under the laws of this state or under the laws of any other jurisdiction;~~

(5) ~~Not have pled guilty to, not have pled nolo contendere to, or not have been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of violence under the laws of this state or under the laws of any other jurisdiction within the ten years immediately preceding the date of application;~~

(6) Not have been found in the previous ten years to be a mentally ill and dangerous person under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act or a similar law of another jurisdiction or not be currently adjudged mentally incompetent;

(7) (a) Have been a resident of this state for at least one hundred eighty days. For purposes of this section, resident does not include an applicant who maintains a residence in another state and claims that residence for voting or tax purposes except as provided in subdivision (b) or (c) of this subdivision;

(b) If an applicant is a member of the United States Armed Forces, such applicant shall be considered a resident of this state for purposes of this section after he or she has been stationed at a military installation in this state pursuant to permanent duty station orders even though he or she maintains a residence in another state and claims that residence for voting or tax purposes; or

(c) If an applicant is a new Nebraska resident and possesses a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun issued by his or her previous state of residence that is recognized by this state pursuant to section 69-2448, such applicant shall be considered a resident of this state for purposes of this section;

(8) Have Not have had no violations a conviction of any law of this state relating to firearms, unlawful use of a weapon, or controlled substances or of any similar laws of another jurisdiction ~~in~~ within the ten years preceding the date of application. This subdivision does not apply to any conviction under Chapter 37 or under any similar law of another jurisdiction, except for a conviction under section 37-509, 37-513, or 37-522 or under any similar law of another jurisdiction;

(9) Not be on parole, probation, house arrest, or work release;

(10) Be a citizen of the United States; and

(11) Provide proof of training.

Sec. 3. Section 69-2435, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

69-2435 A permitholder shall continue to meet the requirements of section 69-2433 during the time he or she holds the permit, except as provided in subsection (4) of section 69-2443. If, during such time, a permitholder does not continue to meet one or more of the requirements, the permitholder shall return his or her permit to the Nebraska State Patrol for revocation. If a permitholder does not return his or her permit, the permitholder is subject to having his or her permit revoked under section 69-2439.

Sec. 4. Section 69-2436, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

69-2436 (1) A permit to carry a concealed handgun is valid throughout the state for a period of five years after the date of issuance. The fee for issuing a permit is one hundred dollars.

(2) The Nebraska State Patrol shall renew a person's permit to carry a concealed handgun for a renewal period of five years, subject to continuing compliance with the requirements of section 69-2433, except as provided in subsection (4) of section 69-2443. The renewal fee is fifty dollars, and renewal may be applied for up to four months before expiration of a permit to carry a concealed handgun.

(3) The applicant shall submit the fee with the application to the Nebraska State Patrol. The fee shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Nebraska State Patrol Cash Fund.

(4) On or before June 30, 2007, the Nebraska State Patrol shall journal entry, as necessary, all current fiscal year expenses and revenue, including investment income, from the Public Safety Cash Fund under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act and recode them against the Nebraska State Patrol

Cash Fund and its program appropriation.

Sec. 5. Section 69-2439, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

69-2439 (1) Any peace officer having probable cause to believe that a permitholder is no longer in compliance with one or more requirements of section 69-2433, except as provided in subsection (4) of section 69-2443, shall bring an application for revocation of the permit to be prosecuted as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) It is the duty of the county attorney or his or her deputy of the county in which such permitholder resides to prosecute a case for the revocation of a permit to carry a concealed handgun brought pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. In case the county attorney refuses or is unable to prosecute the case, the duty to prosecute shall be upon the Attorney General or his or her assistant.

(3) The case shall be prosecuted as a civil case, and the permit shall be revoked upon a showing by a preponderance of the evidence that the permitholder does not meet one or more of the requirements of section 69-2433, except as provided in subsection (4) of section 69-2443.

(4) A person who has his or her permit revoked under this section may be fined up to one thousand dollars and shall be charged with the costs of the prosecution. The money collected under this subsection as an administrative fine shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for distribution in accordance with Article VII, section 5, of the Constitution of Nebraska.

Sec. 6. Section 69-2443, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

69-2443 (1) A permitholder who violates subsection (1) or (2) of section 69-2440 or section 69-2441 or 69-2442 is guilty of a Class III misdemeanor for the first violation and a Class I misdemeanor for any second or subsequent violation.

(2) A permitholder who violates subsection (3) of section 69-2440 is guilty of a Class I misdemeanor.

(3) A permitholder convicted of a violation ~~in subsection (1) or (2) of this section~~ of section 69-2440 or 69-2442 may also have his or her permit revoked.

(4) A permitholder convicted of a violation of section 69-2441 that occurred on property owned by the state or any political subdivision of the state may also have his or her permit revoked. A permitholder convicted of a violation of section 69-2441 that did not occur on property owned by the state or any political subdivision of the state shall not have his or her permit revoked for a first offense but may have his or her permit revoked for any second or subsequent offense.

Sec. 7. Original sections 29-820, 69-2435, 69-2436, 69-2439, and 69-2443, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 69-2433, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2011, are repealed.

Sec. 8. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.