

**Notice: It is very important that you read this page completely before going to a state you want information about! Also be aware that firearms are being stolen from vehicles at a very brisk pace! Secure your Firearms!**

**Last Updated: 9/2/2023**

**Links Checked: 10/15/2023**

## RV/Car Carry of Long Guns

### Securing Firearms in Vehicles

Firearms theft from vehicles has been rising at an alarming rate in 2022 over past years. Many times when a firearm is stolen from a vehicle it is not even locked. Some states have laws on keeping your firearm out of unauthorized hands. Some can hold you responsible for firearms stolen from you that were not secured. Many of those laws are for storage in the home but applying it to your vehicle is not a big stretch. More and more local authorities are passing local ordinances that a firearm must be out of sight and the vehicle must be secured or you are in violation of the local ordinance. Lincoln Nebraska just passed such an ordinance. There are most likely a lot more local authorities who have passed such ordinances. Yes some states have Preemption so local authorities can't pass such ordinances. Some states do not. ALWAYS if you have to leave your firearm in a vehicle keep it out of sight and the vehicle locked. The trunk is the most secure place in a vehicle. Most smash and grabs are for stuff visible or in the glove box, center console and under the seats. It is your responsibility to secure your firearm and keep it out of unauthorized hands. Keep your firearm as secure as possible!

**Note:** Our primary focus at [Handgunlaw.us](https://www.handgunlaw.us) is on the laws and regulations that cover the concealed carrying of handguns. We added this document because we have been getting numerous questions regarding long guns in vehicles. **We are not attorneys, do not take this information as legal advice. You are responsible to verify any data we provide.**

This document only covers the “Keeping” of a “Long Gun” in a “Highway Legal Motor Vehicle”, without any type of permit/license to carry a firearm unless otherwise stated. If [Handgunlaw.us](https://www.handgunlaw.us) is unsure we will err on the side of caution. Places off limits for those with a permit/license to carry in most cases are off limits for long guns. Parking lot storage laws in some states only apply to handguns or those with a valid permit/license to carry. Some places can be off limits for keeping a long gun in your vehicle where it may be legal to possess handguns in a vehicle. For information on each state's “Places Off Limits”, “Parking Lot Storage Laws” and additional information about a particular state, click on that states abbreviation and it will take you to that states page on [Handgunlaw.us](https://www.handgunlaw.us) We also highly recommend you obtain a permit/license to carry in your state if possible.

**This is not the last word in keeping a long gun in a vehicle.** This information is intended to give you a good start in researching the issue in your state, or states you plan to be traveling to/through. Any assistance you could give [Handgunlaw.us](https://www.handgunlaw.us) in updating this listing would be greatly appreciated. [admins@handgunlaw.us](mailto:admins@handgunlaw.us)

**Things to keep in mind when researching laws, especially about keeping a long gun in your vehicle:**

1. When there is no law to be found making something illegal it is legal.
2. When an RV is parked in a designated place for RVs, or on private property, in “**most**” states the RV is considered a domicile. When moving or parked on a street or highway in “**most**” states it is considered the same as any other motor vehicle.
3. In most states a long gun in a vehicle is considered a hunting gun. Know the hunting laws.
4. Shining or spotlighting wildlife. This can be a violation of law in many states if a firearm is present. Some states even consider the headlights on your vehicle as a tool for shining. Know the hunting laws.
5. There is a federal law on having an unsecured firearm within 1000 feet of a school **if you don't have a permit/license to carry from the state you are in.** Fed [GFSZ Act](https://www.gfszact.com) states: “(I) not loaded; and (II) in a locked container, or a locked firearms rack that is on a motor vehicle.” Several states have similar laws.



6. Some states have laws against having a firearm in your home/car etc that is accessible to unauthorized persons (Minors etc.). Having a long gun in the back seat of a vehicle with an unauthorized person (minor etc) or within their ability to reach the firearm would be a violation of that state’s law.

7. [Handgunlaw.us](#) believes if you are going to keep a long gun in your vehicle, it should be kept in the trunk or as far back in an SUV as possible, in some type of case or container. It should not be visible unless the laws of the state require it to be visible. A visible firearm or case would be an inviting target for thieves. Breaking into an automobile is very easy and a quick smash and grab is all that is required for the firearm to be stolen. If your state allows or requires the carrying of a long gun in an open type vehicle gun rack it should be equipped with the ability to lock the firearm to the rack, preventing any unauthorized removal of the firearm. There are also numerous accessories made to carry a long gun securely and out of sight in a vehicle. There are makers of Lockable Gun Safes for long guns for vehicles. [Handgunlaw.us](#) recommends you look them up and if you are going to keep a long gun in your vehicle you keep it in safe and secure manner.

Again [Handgunlaw.us](#) recommends reading the information we have for each state at [Handgunlaw.us](#)

To go directly to any state entry in this document click on its name below.

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**Note:** Alabama is a Permitless Carry state for Handguns. [Handgunlaw.us](#) can find no Statutes/Administrative Rules/Hunting Regulations on carrying a long gun in a vehicle in Alabama. Alabama law does not define “Loaded” or “Unloaded.” Alabama law does not allow firearms in some places. They do have a law about handguns which is below. [Handgunlaw.us](#) recommends that if you do store a firearm in your vehicle you keep it out of sight.

**Administrative Rule 220-2-.55 Wildlife Management Areas, Community Hunting Areas, Public Hunting Areas, and Refuges of Alabama.** Bans firearms except during hunting season and can only have firearms legal to hunt game at that time. At all other times firearms are not allowed. Anyone who can legally possess a firearm can carry their defensive handgun at all times in WMA’s.

To possess a long gun and store in a vehicle on company property it must be a legal hunting gun and only doing hunting season. The person must also have a valid hunting license. Handgunlaw.us recommends you read over the “Places Off Limits” and Parking Lot Storage Law” on the Alabama Page at <https://handgunlaw.us/states/alabama.pdf>

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**Note:** No type of permit/license is required to transport a long gun in a vehicle as described below.

**[AS 11.61.220.](#) Misconduct Involving Weapons in the Fifth Degree.**

(e) For purposes of this section, a deadly weapon on a person is concealed if it is covered or enclosed in any manner so that an observer cannot determine that it is a weapon without removing it from that which covers or



encloses it or without opening, lifting, or removing that which covers or encloses it; a deadly weapon on a person is not concealed if it is an unloaded firearm encased in a closed container designed for transporting firearms.

- (f) For purposes of (a)(2) and (e) of this section, a firearm is loaded if the
- (1) firing chamber, magazine, clip, or cylinder of the firearm contains a cartridge; and
  - (2) chamber, magazine, clip, or cylinder is installed in or on the firearm.
- 2013, ch. 54,sec. 7

**Note:** Firearm would have to be in a firearm case (Hard Sided or Soft) and closed. (Zippered, latched etc) Magazines could be loaded but not inserted into firearm. From (2) it “**may**” be illegal to have rounds in a side saddle or butt stock shell holder attached to the firearm. The law doesn’t state it has to be in the trunk or in the far back of an SUV. Anywhere in the vehicle would be fine if in a case designed to carry firearms. Anyone 21 years of age or older who can legally possess a firearm can carry a concealed handgun in a vehicle in Alaska without any type of permit/license.

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**46.4201. Definitions**

- (d) "Firearm" means any weapon that is de-signed or adapted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.
- (l) "Rifle" means any firearm designed or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire a projectile through a rifled bore by a single function of the trigger.
- (n) "Shotgun" means any firearm designed or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shot-gun shell to fire a number of shots or single projectile through a smoothbore barrel by a single function of the trigger.
- History: 1979, PL 16-43 § 2.

**46.4224. License - Information required.**

- (a) Every person who obtains a license to possess, import, or sell arms shall, upon the written request of the Governor or his designated representative, furnish such information concerning such arms as may be reasonably required.
- (b) Each license issued shall specify the number, quantity, and description of the arms which may be possessed, imported, or sold, or other-wise transferred under it.
- History: 1962, PL 7-13.

**46.4225. License - Possession required when carrying arms.** Every person to whom a license to possess arms is issued, shall when carrying such arms or any part thereof, have with him the license to possess such arms, and shall produce the same for inspection upon demand of any officer or official of the government. 1962, PL 7-13

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us can find anything in American Samoa Law that says you can’t transport a long gun in your vehicle all the time. **That does not mean it is legal. Samoa is not a gun friendly place with carry permits not available.** Samoa law is not easy to research and there could be other laws concerning the carrying of long guns. [Handgunlaw.us](https://www.handgunlaw.us) recommends not carrying a long gun in a vehicle in Samoa unless you have researched the laws further and get additional information from authorities.

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**12-781. Transportation or storage of firearms; motor vehicles; applicability**

- A. A property owner, tenant, public or private employer or business entity shall not establish, maintain or enforce a policy or rule that prohibits a person from lawfully transporting or lawfully storing any firearm that is both:
- 1. In the person's locked and privately owned motor vehicle or in a locked compartment on the person's privately owned motorcycle.
  - 2. Not visible from the outside of the motor vehicle or motorcycle.
- B. Any policy or rule that is established or maintained or the attempted enforcement of any policy or rule that is in violation of subsection A is contrary to public policy, is null and void and does not have legal force or effect.
- C. This section does not apply if:
- 1. The possession of the firearm is prohibited by federal or state law.
  - 2. The motor vehicle is owned or leased by a public or private employer or business entity and is used by an employee in the course of the employment, unless the employee is required to store or transport a



firearm in the official discharge of the employee's duties or if the public or private employer or business entity consents to the transportation or storage of the firearm.

3. The property owner, tenant, public or private employer or business entity provides a parking lot, parking garage or other area designated for parking motor vehicles, that:

(a) Is secured by a fence or other physical barrier.

(b) Limits access by a guard or other security measure.

(c) Provides temporary and secure firearm storage. The storage shall be monitored and readily accessible on entry into the premises and allow for the immediate retrieval of the firearm on exit from the premises.

4. The property owner's, tenant's, public or private employer's or business entity's compliance with this section necessitates the violation of another applicable federal or state law or regulation.

5. The property owner, tenant, public or private employer or business entity is a nuclear generating station that provides a secured and gated or fenced parking lot, parking garage or other area designated for parking motor vehicles and provides temporary and secure firearm storage. The storage shall be readily accessible on entry into the premises and allow for the immediate retrieval of the firearm on exit from the premises.

6. The parking lot, parking garage or other area designated for parking motor vehicles is on an owner occupied single family detached residence or a tenant occupied single family detached residence.

7. The property owner, tenant, public or private employer or business entity is a current United States department of defense contractor and the property is located in whole or in part on a United States military base or a United States military installation. If any part of the property is not located on the United States military base or United States military installation, the property shall be contiguous with the base or installation.

8. The property owner, tenant, public or private employer or business entity provides alternative parking in a location reasonably proximate to the primary parking area for individuals who desire to transport or store a firearm in the individual's motor vehicle and does not charge an extra fee for such parking.

Current through L. 2022, ch. 388

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Handgunlaw.us can find no Arkansas Statutes/Administrative Rules/Hunting Regulations on carrying a long gun in a vehicle. Arkansas law does not even define Loaded or Unloaded. With no definition [Handgunlaw.us](#) recommends as a minimum to have no cartridge in the firing chamber, internal or attached magazine or attached to the firearm in any way. There is also this law that only covers Handguns etc but not long guns.

### **5-73-120. Carrying a weapon.**

(a) A person commits the offense of carrying a weapon if he or she possesses a handgun, knife, or club on or about his or her person, in a vehicle occupied by him or her, **or otherwise readily available for use with a purpose to attempt to unlawfully employ the handgun**, knife, or club as a weapon against a person.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Club" means any instrument that is specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious physical injury or death by striking, including a blackjack, billie, and sap;

(2) "Handgun" means any firearm with a barrel length of less than twelve inches (12") that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one (1) hand;

(3) "Knife" means any bladed hand instrument three inches (3") or longer that is capable of inflicting serious physical injury or death by cutting or stabbing, including a dirk, a sword or spear in a cane, a razor, an ice pick, a throwing star, a switchblade, and a butterfly knife.

(c) It is permissible to carry a handgun under this section if at the time of the act of carrying a weapon:

(1) The person is in his or her own dwelling or place of business or on property in which he or she has a possessory or proprietary interest;

(2) The person is a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or member of the armed forces acting in the course and scope of his or her official duties;

(3) The person is assisting a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or member of the armed forces acting in the course and scope of his or her official duties pursuant to the direction or request of the law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or member of the armed forces;

(4) The person is carrying a weapon when upon a journey, unless the journey is through a commercial airport when presenting at the security checkpoint in the airport or is in the person's checked baggage and is not a lawfully declared weapon;



- (5) The person is a registered commissioned security guard acting in the course and scope of his or her duties;
- (6) The person is hunting game with a handgun that may be hunted with a handgun under rules and regulations of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission or is en route to or from a hunting area for the purpose of hunting game with a handgun;
- (7) (A) The person is a certified law enforcement officer, either on-duty or off-duty.
- (B) If the person is an off-duty law enforcement officer, he or she may be required by a public school or publicly supported institution of higher education to be in physical possession of a valid identification identifying the person as a law enforcement officer;
- (8) The person is in possession of a concealed handgun and has a valid license to carry a concealed handgun under § 5-73-301 et seq., or recognized under § 5-73-321 and is not in a prohibited place as defined by § 5-73-306;
- (9) The person is a prosecuting attorney or deputy prosecuting attorney carrying a firearm under § 16-21-147; or
- (10) The person is in possession of a handgun and is a retired law enforcement officer with a valid concealed carry authorization issued under federal or state law.
- (d) Carrying a weapon is a Class A misdemeanor. 2021, No. 956, § 2.

**There is also this in the Arkansas Hunting Regulations.**

“Hunt or possess a **hunting device** in state or national parks. Exceptions are Buffalo National River WMA and Hobbs State Park Conservation Area.”

**Note:** [Handgunlaw.us](https://www.handgunlaw.us) believes any long gun would be considered a “Hunting Device.” So having one cased in your trunk would be possession of a hunting device in State and National Parks. The Regulation doesn’t state carrying but Possess! The feds have no rules against firearms in National Parks and go by the states laws the park is in. States can make laws and regulations effecting the carrying/possession of firearms in National Parks in their state. The National Parks in Arkansas would follow Arkansas Law. We also recommend you look over the Arkansas Page at [Handgunlaw.us](https://www.handgunlaw.us) for other information that could impact the carrying of a long gun in a vehicle.

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**Below is what the California Attorney General has put out in a Pamphlet titled [“California Firearms Laws Summary”](#) (2016)**

“Non-concealable firearms (rifles and shotguns) are not generally covered within the provisions of California Penal Code section 25400 and therefore are not required to be transported in a locked container However, as with any firearm, non-concealable firearms must be unloaded while they are being transported A rifle or shotgun that is defined as an assault weapon pursuant to Penal Code section 30510 or 30515 must be transported in accordance with Penal Code section 25610.”

**Note:** The CalGuns Foundation states: *“Other than 'assault weapons', for vehicle transport there are no 'destination' or 'route' limits so long as it is legal to possess a firearm en route or at the destination.”* They also state that when removing a long gun from a vehicle it has to be in an enclosed case made for firearms and if it is not a case made for firearms it has to be locked. California also has restrictions on higher capacity magazines and Modern Sporting Rifles. Research California law further for information on Magazine Limits and MSR’s.

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**[33-6-125](#). Possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle**

It is unlawful for any person, except a person authorized by law or by the division, to possess or have under the person’s control any firearm, other than a pistol or revolver, in or on any motor vehicle unless the chamber of the firearm is unloaded. Any person in possession or in control of a rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle shall allow any peace officer who is empowered and acting under the authority granted in section 33-6-101 to enforce articles 1 to 6 of this title 33 to inspect the chamber of any rifle or shotgun in the motor vehicle. For the purposes of this section, a “muzzle-loader” shall be considered unloaded if it is not primed, and “primed” means having a percussion cap on the nipple or flint in the striker and powder in the flash pan. Any person who



violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars and an assessment of fifteen license suspension points. (HB 19-1026), ch. 423, p. 3696, § 12

**18-12-105. Unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon - unlawful possession of weapons**

- (1) A person commits a class 1 misdemeanor if such person knowingly and unlawfully:
- (a) Carries a knife concealed on or about his or her person; or
  - (b) Carries a firearm concealed on or about his or her person
- (2) It shall not be an offense if the defendant was:
- (a) A person in his or her own dwelling or place of business or on property owned or under his or her control at the time of the act of carrying; or
  - (b) A person in a private automobile or other private means of conveyance who carries a weapon for lawful protection of such person's or another's person or property while traveling; or
- L. 2021:IP(1) amended,(SB 21-271), ch. 462, p. 3209, § 344

**Denver Code 38-117** – States it must be unloaded if you are carrying a firearm for hunting. Use Caution.

**Note:** In Colorado you must not allow a firearm to be accessible to any unauthorized person. A minor in your vehicle near a firearm would be a violation of the law. They have access to it.

**Connecticut**

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**Title 53 Chpt. 943-53-205 Shotguns, Rifles and Muzzle-loaders in Vehicles and Snowmobiles.**

No person shall carry or possess in any vehicle or snowmobile any shotgun or rifle or muzzle-loader of any gauge or caliber while such shotgun or rifle or muzzle-loader contains in the barrel, chamber or magazine any loaded shell or cartridge capable of being discharged or when such muzzle-loader has a percussion cap in place or when the powder pan of a flint lock contains powder. Muzzle-loader as used in this section means a rifle or shotgun, incapable of firing a self-contained cartridge and which must be loaded at the muzzle end. The enforcement officers of the Department of Environmental Protection are empowered to enforce this section. The provisions of this section shall not apply to members of the military departments of the government or state while on duty or while traveling to or from assignments, or to enforcement officers, security guards or other persons employed to protect public or private property while in the performance of such duties. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars or be imprisoned not more than thirty days or be both fined and imprisoned. . P.A. 12-80, S. 104.)

**Note:** Law states: “contains in the barrel, chamber or magazine.” This may also include magazines not inserted into the firearm. Connecticut also bans higher capacity magazines and certain firearms must be registered. We recommend you have the firearm unloaded and cased with “Empty” Magazines/Ammunition in a separate container.

**Delaware**

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**Title 7 Conservation Game, Wildlife and Dogs**  
**Chapter 7. Regulations and Prohibitions Concerning Game and Fish**  
**Subchapter I. General Provisions**

**§ 708. Loaded Firearms Prohibited in or on Motor Vehicles, Motorboats or Farm Machinery.**

No person shall have a loaded shotgun or rifle in that person's possession in, against or on any automobile, other vehicle, any piece of farm machinery, motorboat while under power, sailboat while under power, or have any ammunition in the magazine or chamber of such shotgun or rifle except when it is otherwise lawful to hunt crippled migratory birds from a motorboat as permitted by federal law. 70 Del. Laws, c. 275, §71.;

**Title 3 Agriculture Delaware Administrative Code**  
**400 Forest Service**  
**402 State Forest Regulations**

**8.8** Target shooting is prohibited. **Firearms** are allowed for legal hunting only and **are otherwise prohibited on State Forest lands.**

**Title 7 Natural Resources and Environmental Control**  
**3000 Division of Fish and Wildlife**  
**3900 Wildlife General Rules and Regulations Governing Land and Waters Administered by the Division**



**8.3.4** Firearms on Division Areas.

**8.3.4.1** It shall be unlawful for any person to possess a firearm on lands or waters administered by the Division from March 1 through August 31, except as authorized by the Director in writing.

**8.3.4.2** It shall be unlawful for any person to **possess a rifled firearm** of any description at any time on those lands bordering the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and licensed to the Department by the Government of the United States for wildlife management purposes, except that muzzle-loaders and shotguns with rifle barrels may be used during deer seasons when it is lawful to use those firearms.

22 DE Reg. 760 (03/01/19)

**Title 7 Natural Resources and Environmental Control**

**9200 Operation and Maintenance Section**

**9000 Division of Parks and Recreation**

**9201 Regulations Governing State Parks**

**21.1** It shall be unlawful to display, possess or discharge firearms of any description, air rifles, B.B. guns, sling shots, or archery equipment upon lands or waters administered by the Division, except with prior written approval of the Director.

19 DE Reg. 854 (03/01/16)

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us can't find anything in the Delaware Statutes/Administrative Rules/Hunting Regulations on carrying a long gun in a vehicle except § 708 quoted above. Delaware law does not define Loaded or Unloaded. With no definition [Handgunlaw.us](http://Handgunlaw.us) recommends as a minimum to have no cartridge in the firing chamber internal or attached magazine or attached to the firearm in any way.

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**§ 22-4504.02.** Lawful Transportation of Firearms (How to store firearm legally in vehicle)

- (a) Any person who is not otherwise prohibited by the law from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be permitted to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry the firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry the firearm if the firearm is transported in accordance with this section.
- (b) (1) if the transportation of the firearm is by a vehicle, the firearm shall be unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported shall be readily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the transporting vehicle.
- (2) If the transporting vehicle does not have a compartment separate from the driver's compartment, the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console, and the firearm shall be unloaded.
- (c) If the transportation of the firearm is in a manner other than in a vehicle, the firearm shall be:
- (1) Unloaded;
- (2) Inside a locked container; and
- (3) Separate from any ammunition.

D.C. Law 17-388, § 2(d), 56 DCR 1162.)

**Note:** You just can't keep a long gun in a vehicle in DC. You can only have it in the vehicle when transporting it from a place you can legally have it to another place you can legally have it. Back and forth to a repair shop or your own property etc.

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**Note:** No type of permit/license is required to transport a long gun in a vehicle as described below.

**790.25** Lawful Ownership, Possession, and Use of Firearms and Other Weapons

**(5) Possession in Private Conveyance.**--Notwithstanding subsection (2), it is lawful and is not a violation of s. 790.01 for a person 18 years of age or older to possess a concealed firearm or other weapon for self-defense or other lawful purpose within the interior of a private conveyance, without a license, if the firearm or other weapon is securely encased or is otherwise not readily accessible for immediate use. **Nothing herein contained prohibits the carrying of a legal firearm other than a handgun anywhere in a private conveyance when such firearm is being carried for a lawful use.** Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize the carrying of a concealed firearm or other weapon on the person. This subsection shall be liberally construed in



favor of the lawful use, ownership, and possession of firearms and other weapons, including lawful self-defense as provided in s. 776.012.

s. 20, ch. 2022-183

**790.001 Definitions.-- As Used in This Chapter, Except Where the Context Otherwise Requires:**

(17) "Securely encased" means in a glove compartment, whether or not locked; snapped in a holster; in a gun case, whether or not locked; in a zippered gun case; or in a closed box or container which requires a lid or cover to be opened for access.

s. 2, ch. 2016-106

**Georgia**

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**§ 16-11-126 Having or Carrying Handguns, Long Guns, or Other Weapons; License Requirement; Exceptions for Homes, Motor Vehicles, Private Property, and Other Locations and Conditions**

(a) Any person who is not prohibited by law from possessing a handgun or long gun may have or carry on his or her person a long gun on his or her property or inside his or her home, motor vehicle, or place of business.

(b) Any person who is not prohibited by law from possessing a handgun or long gun may have or carry on his or her person a long gun.

(c) Any person who is a lawful weapons carrier may transport a handgun or long gun in any private passenger motor vehicle; provided, however, that private property owners or persons in legal control of private property through a lease, rental agreement, licensing agreement, contract, or any other agreement to control access to such private property shall have the right to exclude or eject a person who is in possession of a weapon or long gun on their private property in accordance with paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of Code Section 16-7-21, except as provided in Code Section 16-11-135.

L. 2022, p. 86, § 1/HB 218.

**§ 27-3-1.1 - Acts Prohibited on Wildlife Management Areas**

It shall be unlawful for any person on any wildlife management area owned or operated by the department:

(1) To possess a firearm other than a handgun, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-11-125.1, during a closed hunting season for that area unless such firearm is unloaded and stored in a motor vehicle so as not to be readily accessible or to possess a handgun during a closed hunting season for that area unless such person possesses a valid weapons carry license issued pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129 is a lawful weapons carrier as defined in Code Section 16-11-125.1:

Ga. L. 2022, p. 74, § 14/SB 319

**Guam**

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**Title 10 § 60100. Definitions.** As used in this Chapter:

(a) *Firearm* means any weapon, the operating force of which is an explosive. This definition includes pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, machine guns, automatic rifles, noxious gas projectors, mortars, bombs, cannon and submachine guns. The specific mention of certain weapons does not exclude from the definition other weapons operated by explosives.

(c) *Rifle* means a firearm designed, made, redesigned or remade and intended to be fired from the shoulder and to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger, and shall include any such firearm which may be readily restored to fire loaded ammunition, and any antique rifle or long gun, regardless of the type of charge or projectile used, which is capable of being used as a weapon.

(d) *Shotgun* means any firearm designed, made, redesigned or remade and intended to be fired from the shoulder and to fire through a smooth barrel either a number of projectiles (ball shot) or a single projectile, and shall include any such firearm which may be readily restored to fire any of the above, and shall also include any firearm of any age designed and capable of firing the above- mentioned projectiles.

P.L. 20-223:4.

**§ 60106. Identification Card: Required.**

No person shall own, possess, use, carry or acquire any firearm which is lawful under '60103 unless he shall have first obtained from the Department an identification card evidencing his right to such ownership, possession, use or carrying, concealed or otherwise, as stated upon the face of the card; except that any person may use and possess a firearm at any shooting gallery licensed pursuant to '60105, et seq., without first obtaining a permit as otherwise required by this Section. Said card shall be in the possession of the holder and on his person whenever he is using or has in his possession a firearm.

P.L. 15-147.

**§ 60109.1 Concealed Firearms; Shall Issue License.**



**(1)(2)** A person licensed under this Section shall not be prohibited from carrying or storing a firearm in a vehicle for lawful purposes.

P.L. 36-069:2 (Dec. 27, 2021)

## [Hawaii](#)

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**Note:** Hawaii Statutes have two successive Statutes that state the same thing except for the penalty for breaking them. 134-23 is a class B felony and 134-24 is a class C felony. Hawaii statutes don't give a definition for "Sojourn." The dictionary defines it as a temporary stay visit, stopover, and vacation.

### **§134-23 Place to keep loaded firearms other than pistols and revolvers; penalty.**

(a) Except as provided in section 134-5, all firearms shall be confined to the possessor's place of business, residence, or sojourn; provided that it shall be lawful to carry unloaded firearms in an enclosed container from the place of purchase to the purchaser's place of business, residence, or sojourn, or between these places upon change of place of business, residence, or sojourn, or between these places and the following:

- (1) A place of repair;
- (2) A target range;
- (3) A licensed dealer's place of business;
- (4) An organized, scheduled firearms show or exhibit;
- (5) A place of formal hunter or firearm use training or instruction; or
- (6) A police station.

"Enclosed container" means a rigidly constructed receptacle, or a commercially manufactured gun case, or the equivalent thereof that completely encloses the firearm.

(b) Any person violating this section by carrying or possessing a loaded firearm other than a pistol or revolver shall be guilty of a class B felony.

[L 2006, c 66, pt of §1]

### **§134-24 Place to keep unloaded firearms other than pistols and revolvers; penalty.**

(a) Except as provided in section 134-5, all firearms shall be confined to the possessor's place of business, residence, or sojourn; provided that it shall be lawful to carry unloaded firearms in an enclosed container from the place of purchase to the purchaser's place of business, residence, or sojourn, or between these places upon change of place of business, residence, or sojourn, or between these places and the following:

- (1) A place of repair;
- (2) A target range;
- (3) A licensed dealer's place of business;
- (4) An organized, scheduled firearms show or exhibit;
- (5) A place of formal hunter or firearm use training or instruction; or
- (6) A police station.

"Enclosed container" means a rigidly constructed receptacle, or a commercially manufactured gun case, or the equivalent thereof that completely encloses the firearm.

(b) Any person violating this section by carrying or possessing an unloaded firearm other than a pistol or revolver shall be guilty of a class C felony.

[L 2006, c 66, pt of §1]

### **§134-26 Carrying or possessing a loaded firearm on a public highway; penalty.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person on any public highway to carry on the person, or to have in the person's possession, or to carry in a vehicle any firearm loaded with ammunition; provided that this section shall not apply to any person who has in the person's possession or carries a pistol or revolver in accordance with a license issued as provided in section 134-9.

(b) Any vehicle used in the commission of an offense under this section shall be forfeited to the State, subject to the notice and hearing requirements of chapter 712A.

(c) Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a class B felony.

[L 2006, c 66, pt of §1]

### **§134-27 Place to keep ammunition; penalty.**

(a) Except as provided in sections 134-5 and 134-9, all ammunition shall be confined to the possessor's place of business, residence, or sojourn; provided that it shall be lawful to carry ammunition in an enclosed container from the place of purchase to the purchaser's place of business, residence, or sojourn, or between these places upon change of place of business, residence, or sojourn, or between these places and the following:



- (1) A place of repair;
- (2) A target range;
- (3) A licensed dealer's place of business;
- (4) An organized, scheduled firearms show or exhibit;
- (5) A place of formal hunter or firearm use training or instruction; or
- (6) A police station.

"Enclosed container" means a rigidly constructed receptacle, or a commercially manufactured gun case, or the equivalent thereof that completely encloses the ammunition.

(b) Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[L 2006, c 66, pt of §1]

## [Idaho](#)

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### [18-3302. Concealed Weapons](#)

(1) The legislature hereby finds that the people of Idaho have reserved for themselves the right to keep and bear arms while granting the legislature the authority to regulate the carrying of weapons concealed. The provisions of this chapter regulating the carrying of weapons must be strictly construed so as to give maximum scope to the rights retained by the people.

(4) Subsection (3) of this section shall not apply to restrict or prohibit the carrying or possession of:

- (a) Any deadly weapon located in plain view;
- (b) Any lawfully possessed shotgun or rifle;
- (c) Any deadly weapon concealed in a motor vehicle;
- (d) A firearm that is not loaded and is secured in a case;
- (e) A firearm that is disassembled or permanently altered such that it is not readily operable; and
- (f) Any deadly weapon concealed by a person who is:
  - (i) A person who is eighteen (18) years of age;
  - (ii) A citizen of the United States or a current member of the armed forces of the United States; and;
  - (iii) Is not disqualified from being issued a license under paragraphs (b) through (n) of subsection (11) of this section.

2020, ch. 315, sec. 1, p. 893.]

**Note:** Anyone 18 years of age or older who can legally possess a firearm can carry a firearm in Idaho without any type of permit/license to carry.

## [Illinois](#)

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### [720 ILCS 5/24-1](#)

(4) Carries or possesses in any vehicle or concealed on or about his person except when on his land or in his own abode, legal dwelling, or fixed place of business, or on the land or in the legal dwelling of another person as an invitee with that person's permission, any pistol, revolver, stun gun or taser or other firearm, except that this subsection (a) (4) does not apply to or affect transportation of weapons that meet one of the following conditions:

- (i) are broken down in a non-functioning state; or
- (ii) are not immediately accessible; or
- (iii) are unloaded and enclosed in a case, firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container by a person who has been issued a currently valid Firearm Owner's Identification Card. 102-538, eff. 8-20-21

### [625 ILCS 5/12-612](#)

#### [Sec. 12-612. False or secret compartment in a vehicle.](#)

(a) Offenses. It is unlawful for any person:

- (1) to own or operate with criminal intent any vehicle he or she knows to contain a false or secret compartment that is used or has been used to conceal a firearm as prohibited by paragraph (a)(4) of Section 24-1 or paragraph (a)(1) of Section 24-1.6 of the Criminal Code of 2012, or controlled substance as prohibited by the Illinois Controlled Substances Act or the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act; or



(2) to install, create, build, or fabricate in any vehicle a false or secret compartment knowing that another person intends to use the compartment to conceal a firearm as prohibited by paragraph (a)(4) of Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012, or controlled substance as prohibited by the Illinois Controlled Substances Act or the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act.

(b) Definitions. For purposes of this Section:

(1) "False or secret compartment" means an enclosure integrated into a vehicle that is a modification of the vehicle as built by the original manufacturer.

P.A. 102-538, eff. 8-20-21

**State FAQs: How do I transport a firearm through an Illinois community with an ordinance that prohibits firearms or handguns?**

Illinois’ Unlawful Use of Weapons law does not preempt local ordinances from banning firearms. Persons carrying or transporting firearms through such communities could be subject to local firearm ordinances. Federal law does attempt to provide limited protection in these circumstances, but when transporting firearms in unfamiliar communities, it is a good idea to check with authorities on local law.

**From the IL DNR Hunting and Trapping Regulations**

**Q. How may I safely and legally transport ammunition in a vehicle?**

A. The location of ammunition being transported, including ammunition being transported in loaded magazines, is not regulated as long as the firearm is unloaded and encased, and the resident possessing the firearm/ammunition holds a valid F.O.I.D. card.

**Q: How can a non-resident without a F.O.I.D. card legally transport a firearm in a vehicle?**

A: Non-residents must transport their firearms unloaded and enclosed in a case (see Transporting Firearms and Bow and Arrow Devices in Vehicles, page 12). In addition, the firearm must not be immediately accessible or must be broken down in a non-functioning state.

**Definition of Case:** Any case, firearm carrying box, shipping box, or container acceptable under Article 24 of the Criminal Code of 2012.

**Note:** Illinois preempted all Handgun Laws when they passed their Concealed Handgun Law in 2013. They did not preempt Long Gun Laws. Local cities and counties can have ordinances concerning transporting long guns and especially magazine limits and or loaded magazines. You can view each Illinois city/county restrictions on Long Guns [Here](#).

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us can’t find anything in the statutes concerning the carrying of long guns other than the hunting laws listed below. The State Statutes define Handguns and Shotguns but don’t even define a rifle.

**[312 IAC 8-2-3 Firearms, hunting, and trapping](#)**  
Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-11-2-1; IC 14-22-2-6   Affected: IC 14-22-11-1; IC 35-47-2

**Sec. 3. (a)** A person must not possess a firearm or bow and arrows on a DNR property unless one (1) of the following conditions apply:

- (1) The firearm or bow and arrows are:
  - (A) unloaded and un-nocked; and
  - (B) placed in a case or locked within a vehicle.
- (2) The firearm or bow and arrows are possessed at, and of a type designated for usage on:
  - (A) a rifle;
  - (B) a pistol;
  - (C) a shotgun; or
  - (D) an archery; range.
- (3) The firearm or bow and arrows are being used in the lawful pursuit of either of the following:
  - (A) A wild animal on a DNR property authorized for that purpose.
  - (B) A groundhog as authorized under a license.
- (4) The person possesses a handgun on a DNR property other than a reservoir owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Falls of the Ohio State Park:
  - (A) with a valid unlimited license to carry a handgun:
    - (i) issued under IC 35-47-2-3; or



(ii) recognized under IC 35-47-2-21(b); or

(B) pursuant to an exemption to handgun licensure requirements as authorized under IC 35-47-2-2.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (a)(1) or (a)(4), a firearm or bow and arrows may not be possessed on DNR properties within any of the following:

(1) A nature preserve or another property administered by the division of nature preserves unless hunting is authorized under subsection (d).

(2) A property administered by the division of state museums and historic sites.

(3) A campground.

(4) A picnic area.

(5) A beach.

(6) A service area.

(7) A headquarters building.

(8) A hunter check station.

(9) A developed recreation site

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[Johnny Estep v. State of Indiana](#) ruling stated a pistol grip on a shotgun made it a handgun and not a shotgun.

## [Iowa](#)

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### [483A.35](#) “Gun” defined.

The word “gun” as used in this chapter shall include every kind of a gun or rifle, except a revolver or pistol, and shall include those provided with pistol mountings which are designed to shoot shot cartridges.

C93, §483A.35

### [483A.36](#) Manner of Conveyance.

A person, **except as permitted by law**, shall not have or carry a gun in or on a vehicle on a public highway, unless the gun is taken down or totally contained in a securely fastened case, and its barrels and attached magazines are unloaded. **Note:** A valid permit is the exception as permitted by law.

2010 Acts, ch 1113, § 1

## [Kansas](#)

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The Attorney General of Kansas Opinion [No. 2014-14](#) issued July 28, 2014 on the issue of carrying firearms. Kansas had passed an extensive new law concerning gun rights in Kansas that voided all local firearm laws on open and concealed carry.

Excerpts from [No. 2014-14](#)

Effective July 1, 2014, a law-abiding person may openly carry a rifle, shotgun or other long gun without violating state or municipal laws. However, a person may not openly carry any firearm into a building that is lawfully posted as prohibiting open carry.

Under Kansas law, a person may transport a loaded firearm in a vehicle, regardless of whether the person is licensed to carry a concealed handgun, and regardless of whether the loaded firearm is stored in a container or transported in plain view. Effective July 1, 2014, a city or county may not enforce local laws regulating the transportation of a firearm in a vehicle.

Federal law prohibits a person not licensed to carry a concealed handgun from possessing or transporting a loaded firearm in a school zone, except on private property. However, a Kansas concealed carry licensee may not carry a concealed handgun into any school building posted as prohibiting concealed carry.

75- 7c20, as amended by L. 2014, Ch. 134, § 5; 75- 4514; 75-6102; K.A.R. 1-49-11; 18 U.S.C. § 921; 18 U.S.C. § 922.

### **Effective July 1, 2014, may a person lawfully openly carry a rifle or shotgun?**

Generally speaking, the answer to this question is yes. There is no state statute that prohibits the open carry of legal firearms, including rifles or shotguns, by persons who are otherwise legally allowed to possess firearms.

## [Kentucky](#)

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### [237.060](#) Definitions for KRS 237.060 to 237.090 and Certain Other Sections.

(4) "Loaded" with respect to a firearm means:

(a) There is ammunition in the chamber of the firearm; or



- (b) There is ammunition in the cylinder of the firearm; or
- (c) There is ammunition in the magazine of a firearm, if the magazine is attached to the firearm.

1996 Ky. Acts ch. 191, sec. 1,

**527.020 Carrying Concealed Deadly Weapon.**

(8) A loaded or unloaded firearm or other deadly weapon shall not be deemed concealed on or about the person if it is located in any enclosed container, compartment, or storage space [regularly] installed as original equipment in a motor vehicle by its manufacturer, including but not limited to a glove compartment, center console, or seat pocket, regardless of whether said enclosed container, storage space, or compartment is locked, unlocked, or does not have a locking mechanism. No person or organization, public or private, shall prohibit a person from keeping a loaded or unloaded firearm or ammunition, or both, or other deadly weapon in a vehicle in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. Any attempt by a person or organization, public or private, to violate the provisions of this subsection may be the subject of an action for appropriate relief or for damages in a Circuit Court or District Court of competent jurisdiction. This subsection shall not apply to any person prohibited from possessing a firearm pursuant to KRS 527.040.

Amended 2019 Ky. Acts ch. 10, sec. 2, eff

**R.S. 32:292.1. Transportation and storage of firearms in privately owned motor vehicles**

- A.** Except as provided in Subsection D of this Section, a person who lawfully possesses a firearm may transport or store such firearm in a locked, privately-owned motor vehicle in any parking lot, parking garage, or other designated parking area.
- B.** No property owner, tenant, public or private employer, or business entity or their agent or employee shall be liable in any civil action for damages resulting from or arising out of an occurrence involving a firearm transported or stored pursuant to this Section, other than for a violation of Subsection C of this Section.
- C.** No property owner, tenant, public or private employer, or business entity shall prohibit any person from transporting or storing a firearm pursuant to Subsection A of this Section. However, nothing in this Section shall prohibit an employer or business entity from adopting policies specifying that firearms stored in locked, privately-owned motor vehicles on property controlled by an employer or business entity be hidden from plain view or within a locked case or container within the vehicle.
- D.** This Section shall not apply to:
- (1) Any property where the possession of firearms is prohibited under state or federal law.
  - (2) Any vehicle owned or leased by a public or private employer or business entity and used by an employee in the course of his employment, except for those employees who are required to transport or store a firearm in the official discharge of their duties.
  - (3) Any vehicle on property controlled by a public or private employer or business entity if access is restricted or limited through the use of a fence, gate, security station, signage, or other means of restricting or limiting general public access onto the parking area, and if one of the following conditions applies:
    - (a) The employer or business entity provides facilities for the temporary storage of unloaded firearms.
    - (b) The employer or business entity provides an alternative parking area reasonably close to the main parking area in which employees and other persons may transport or store firearms in locked, privately-owned motor vehicles.

Acts 2008, No. 684, §1.

**From Louisiana Hunting Regulations.**

- Firearms having live ammunition in the chamber, magazine, cylinder or clip when attached to firearms or crossbows cocked and in the ready position are not allowed in or on vehicles, boats under power, motorcycles, ATVs/UTVs, ATCs or in camping areas on WMAs.
- Firearms and bows and arrows are not allowed on WMAs during closed seasons except on designated shooting ranges or as permitted for trapping, and except as allowed pursuant to R.S. 56:109.C and R.S. 56:1691. (See 56:1691 below)

**RS 56:1691. Possession of firearms**

A person who lawfully possesses a firearm may possess or transport such firearm within the boundaries of a state park, state historic site, state preservation area, wildlife management area, or wildlife refuge.



**Note:** Handgunlaw.us can find no other Statutes/Rules/Regulations concerning carrying firearms in a vehicle. Nowhere does it state that it has to be loaded or unloaded. Hunting laws concerning WMA's do state the firearm would have to be unloaded. Louisiana firearm laws use the word Loaded or Unloaded but does not give a definition. With no definition on what the state considers a loaded firearm at the minimum [Handgunlaw.us](http://Handgunlaw.us) recommends you have no cartridge in the firing chamber, internal or attached magazine.

## [Maine](#)

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### **Title 12: Part 13: Subpart 4: Chapter 915: Subchapter 4**

#### **§11212-A. Motor vehicles and motorboats**

**E.** A person who is 21 years of age or older and is not otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm or is 18 years of age or older and under 21 years of age and is on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard or is an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard and is not otherwise prohibited from carrying a firearm may have in or on a vehicle a loaded pistol or revolver.

[PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

### **Title 26: Chapter 7: Subchapter 1:**

#### **§600. Concealed firearms in vehicles**

**1.** Firearms in vehicles. An employer or an agent of an employer may not prohibit an employee who has a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm under Title 25, chapter 252 from keeping a firearm in the employee's vehicle as long as the vehicle is locked and the firearm is not visible. This subsection applies to the State as an employer when a state employee's vehicle is on property owned or leased by the State. This subsection does not authorize an employee or state employee to carry a firearm in a place where carrying a firearm is prohibited by law. For purposes of this section, "state employee" means an employee of the State within the executive branch, the legislative branch or the judicial branch performing services within the scope of that employee's employment.

[ 2011, c. 537, §1 (AMD)]

### **The Maine Hunting Regulations State This:**

Firearms may be transported in a motor vehicle without a concealed firearms permit provided they are (1) unloaded and in plain view, or (2) are unloaded and placed in a remote secure area (such as a locked trunk) away from the control of the occupants of the motor vehicle.

**Note:** 11212-A above only covers handguns. Long guns would have to be unloaded. The Parking Lot Storage Law only covers those with a Permit/License to Carry a Concealed Firearm. The statute doesn't state it but the hunting regulations state it must be visible or in a remote area of the vehicle or the trunk.

[Handgunlaw.us](http://Handgunlaw.us) does not know if being in a gun case would still be considered visible but believe as long as the case was made for a firearm it would be considered visible.

## [Maryland](#)

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Maryland Statutes has many laws covering the transportation of Handguns but few about transporting Long Guns. Long guns are only mentioned in Regulated Firearms. The AG has put out an [Opinion on Loaded Magazines](#) and an [Letter on Carrying Long Guns](#). That letter on carrying Long Guns mainly pertains to openly carrying one slung on your shoulder but shows that "Unregulated Long" guns do not have many restrictions. A "regulated firearm" is a modern handgun, or a pre-Oct. 1 2013 assault/copycat long gun.

### **Maryland General Hunting Regulations:**

- It is illegal to have a loaded firearm in, on, or leaning against any vehicle. This includes ammunition in the magazine or a muzzle-loader ready to fire.

**Business Regulations Article, § 15-203( a)(6).** State law permits an innkeeper to deny a room to a person the innkeeper believes to possess firearms.

**Criminal Code § 4-208.** Possession of firearm at public demonstration: A person may not possess a firearm within 1000 foot of a demonstration.

**Note:** Maryland has Laws concerning Transporting Regulated Firearms. All Handguns and what Maryland calls "[Assault Weapons](#)" (Modern Sporting Rifles) have restrictions on transporting them into Maryland. Be aware of those restrictions. Handgunlaw.us recommends you know the difference between a regulated and non-regulated Long Guns before putting/keeping one in your vehicle. Handgunlaw.us believes the hunting laws on



so called clips and 8rds and FMJ would not apply to unloaded secured long guns in a vehicle. Same with the 1000 foot municipal 1000 foot rule. Handgunlaw.us put those statutes there so you would just be aware of them.

**From the MD State Police [FAQs](#)**

**Q. How can I legally transport firearms within / through Maryland?**

**A:** They must be unloaded, in a carrying case, holster with a flap and the ammunition should be separate. It would be best to keep the unloaded weapon in the trunk where you do not have access to it. There are further regulations but essentially you can only transport a handgun between residence, to and from a repair shop, a shooting sporting event, between a residence and place of business if substantially owned and operated by the person. For more information please contact our Licensing Division.

**Q.** Can we travel to other states for competitions and return with our already owned banned firearms? Can someone come from another state, for competition in Maryland, with a banned rifle?

**A:** A Maryland resident who lawfully owned the firearm prior to October 1, 2013 may travel with the firearm to other states and return so long as it is not a violation in the state you are traveling to and the firearm is being transported in accordance with the law. A person may not transport an assault weapon into Maryland for target competition unless the person lawfully possesses, has a purchase order for, or applied to purchase the weapon before October 1, 2013. Federal law allows a person to transport a firearm through Maryland but not to Maryland if the firearm is not in compliance with state law.

**[Criminal Law § 4-209](#) Regulation of Weapons and Ammunition**

**(a)** State preemption. -- Except as otherwise provided in this section, the State preempts the right of a county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district to regulate the purchase, sale, taxation, transfer, manufacture, repair, ownership, possession, and transportation of:

- (1)** a handgun, rifle, or shotgun; and
- (2)** ammunition for and components of a handgun, rifle, or shotgun. ch. 26, § 2; 2010, ch. 712

[Massachusetts](#)[Back to Index](#)

**Title XX**  
**Chapter 140**  
**[Section 131C](#) Carrying of firearms in a vehicle**

**(a)** No person carrying a loaded firearm under a license issued pursuant to section 131 or 131F shall carry the loaded firearm in a vehicle unless the loaded firearm while carried in the vehicle is under the direct control of the person. Whoever violates this subsection shall be punished by a fine of \$500.

**(b)** No person possessing a large capacity rifle or shotgun under a license issued pursuant to section 131 or 131F shall possess the large capacity rifle or shotgun in a vehicle unless the large capacity rifle or shotgun is unloaded and contained within the locked trunk of the vehicle or in a locked case or other secure container. Whoever violates this subsection shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000.

*014, 284, Sec. 58 effective January 1, 2021*

**From Dept of Safety FAQs:**

**Q: Do I need an FID Card or an LTC Firearms to possess a gun in my home?**

**A:** Yes. At a minimum you need an FID Card for non-large capacity rifles and shotguns.

**Note:** Unless you have an Unrestricted License to Carry you just can't have a firearm with you all the time even in a vehicle. With a Restricted License to Carry it has to be unloaded and stored in the vehicle trunk or cased. Restricted LTC's allow you to only transport the firearm between places you can legally possess it or if you have a hunting or sporting restrictions you can only transport it when you are going to or from hunting or a shooting range.

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**Note:** No type of permit/license is required to transport a long gun in a vehicle as described below. Unloaded and cased is acceptable.

**What Does MI Consider A Loaded Firearm?**

**Transporting Firearms, Crossbows, and Bows and Arrows (*DNR Regulations*)**



**These rules apply whether your vehicle is parked, stopped, moving or is on private or public property.** Firearms must be unloaded in the barrel, and all arrows must be in a quiver when a hunter is afield outside the legal hunting hours.

**At all times when carried in or on a motor vehicle, including snowmobiles:**

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzle-loading and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle.
- Crossbows, slingshots, and bows and arrows must be enclosed in a case or unstrung or carried in the trunk of a vehicle.

**At all times, when carried in or on an ORV:**

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzle-loading and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or equipped with and made inoperative by a manufactured key locked trigger-housing mechanism.
- Crossbows, slingshots, and bows and arrows must be enclosed in a case or unstrung.

**At all times, when carried in or on a motor-propelled boat or sailboat:**

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzle-loading and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine when the motor is operating or the boat is under sail.
- Firearms may not be loaded until the forward momentum of the boat has ceased.

**Exception:** These rules do not apply to a pistol carried under authority of a concealed pistol license or properly carried under authority of a specific exception from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. See Statewide Handgun Regulations.

A percussion cap muzzle-loading long-arm is considered unloaded if the percussion cap is removed. A flintlock muzzle-loading long-arm is considered unloaded if the cock is left down and the pan is open. Black powder handguns must be transported as stated above. A muzzle-loading firearm that has an electric ignition system is considered unloaded if the battery is removed.

**The Michigan Penal Code (Excerpt)  
Act 328 of 1931**

**750.227c Transporting or possessing loaded firearm in or upon vehicle; violation as misdemeanor; penalty; applicability to person violating MCL 312.10(1)(g).**

**Sec. 227c. (1)** Except as otherwise permitted by law, a person shall not transport or possess in or upon a sailboat or a motor vehicle, aircraft, motorboat, or any other vehicle propelled by mechanical means either of the following:

- (a) A firearm, other than a pistol, that is loaded.
- (b) A pneumatic gun that is loaded and expels a metallic BB or metallic pellet greater than .177 caliber.

(2) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or a fine of not more than \$2,500.00, or both.

**History:** Am. 2015, Act 26, Eff. July 1, 2015

**750.227d Transporting or possessing firearm in or upon motor vehicle or self-propelled vehicle designed for land travel; conditions; violation as misdemeanor; penalty.**

**Sec. 227d.**

(1) Except as otherwise permitted by law, a person shall not transport or possess in or upon a motor vehicle or any self-propelled vehicle designed for land travel either of the following:

- (a) A firearm, other than a pistol, unless the firearm is unloaded and is 1 or more of the following:
  - (i) Taken down.
  - (ii) Enclosed in a case.
  - (iii) Carried in the trunk of the vehicle.
  - (iv) Inaccessible from the interior of the vehicle.
- (b) A pneumatic gun that expels a metallic BB or metallic pellet greater than .177 caliber unless the pneumatic gun is unloaded and is 1 or more of the following:

- (i) Taken down.
- (ii) Enclosed in a case.
- (iii) Carried in the trunk of the vehicle.
- (iv) Inaccessible from the interior of the vehicle.

(2) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.

**History:** Am. 2015, Act 26, Eff. July 1, 2015



**Note:** More than one person from MI has stated you should carry a printout of the law if carrying a long gun. They state many LEO's will say more than 1 of the above must be met!

## [Minnesota](#)

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### **624.714 Carrying of Weapons Without Permit; Penalties.**

#### **Subd. 1a. Permit required; penalty.**

A person, other than a peace officer, as defined in section 626.84, subdivision 1, who carries, holds, or possesses a pistol in a motor vehicle, snowmobile, or boat, or on or about the person's clothes or the person, or otherwise in possession or control in a public place, as defined in section 624.7181, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), without first having obtained a permit to carry the pistol is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. A person who is convicted a second or subsequent time is guilty of a felony.

2017 c 95 art 3 s 25

### **97B.045 Transportation of Firearms.**

#### **Subdivision 1. Restrictions.**

A person may not transport a firearm in a motor vehicle unless the firearm is:

- (1) unloaded and in a gun case expressly made to contain a firearm, and the case fully encloses the firearm by being zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened, and without any portion of the firearm exposed;
- (2) unloaded and in the closed trunk of a motor vehicle; or
- (3) a handgun carried in compliance with sections 624.714 and 624.715.

2011 c 2 art 5 s

### **624.7181 Rifles and Shotguns in Public Places.**

**Subdivision 1. Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(a) "BB gun" means a device that fires or ejects a shot measuring .18 of an inch or less in diameter.

(b) "Carry" does not include:

- (1) the carrying of a BB gun, rifle, or shotgun to, from, or at a place where firearms are repaired, bought, sold, traded, or displayed, or where hunting, target shooting, or other lawful activity involving firearms occurs, or at funerals, parades, or other lawful ceremonies;
- (2) the carrying by a person of a BB gun, rifle, or shotgun that is unloaded and in a gun case expressly made to contain a firearm, if the case fully encloses the firearm by being zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened, and no portion of the firearm is exposed;
- (3) the carrying of a BB gun, rifle, or shotgun by a person who has a permit under section 624.714;
- (4) the carrying of an antique firearm as a curiosity or for its historical significance or value; or
- (5) the transporting of a BB gun, rifle, or shotgun in compliance with section 97B.045.

(c) "Public place" means property owned, leased, or controlled by a governmental unit and private property that is regularly and frequently open to or made available for use by the public in sufficient numbers to give clear notice of the property's current dedication to public use but does not include: a person's dwelling house or premises, the place of business owned or managed by the person, or land possessed by the person; a gun show, gun shop, or hunting or target shooting facility; or the woods, fields, or waters of this state where the person is present lawfully for the purpose of hunting or target shooting or other lawful activity involving firearms.

#### **Subd. 2. Penalties.**

Whoever carries a BB gun, rifle, or shotgun on or about the person in a public place is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. A person under the age of 21 who carries a semiautomatic military-style assault weapon, as defined in section 624.712, subdivision 7, on or about the person in a public place is guilty of a felony.

#### **Subd. 3. Exceptions.**

This section does not apply to officers, employees, or agents of law enforcement agencies or the armed forces of this state or the United States, or private detectives or protective agents, to the extent that these persons are authorized by law to carry firearms and are acting in the scope of their official duties.

1994 c 636 art 3 s

**Note:** MN Law says loaded or unloaded. They do define loaded when guns have to be stored away from children. (Below)



**609.666 Negligent Storage of Firearms.**  
**Subdivision 1.Definitions.**

For purposes of this section, the following words have the meanings given.

- (a) "Firearm" means a device designed to be used as a weapon, from which is expelled a projectile by the force of any explosion or force of combustion.
- (b) "Child" means a person under the age of 18 years.
- (c) "Loaded" means the firearm has ammunition in the chamber or magazine, if the magazine is in the firearm, unless the firearm is incapable of being fired by a child who is likely to gain access to the firearm.

1996 c 408 art 4 s 11

[Mississippi](#) [Back to Index](#)

**SEC. 97-37-1. Deadly Weapons; Carrying While Concealed; Use or Attempt to Use; Penalties.**

(2) It shall not be a violation of this section for any person over the age of eighteen (18) years to carry a firearm or deadly weapon concealed in whole or in part within the confines of his own home or his place of business, or any real property associated with his home or business or within any motor vehicle. Laws, 2013, ch. 308, §1

[Missouri](#) [Back to Index](#)

**From the Missouri State Patrol FAQs**

**Question** Does a person carrying a weapon in a vehicle also have to have a permit for the gun?

**Answer:** No. A weapon may be carried anywhere in a vehicle, even concealed on the person, under the vehicle exception.

**Title XXXVIII 571.030. 1. A Person Commits the Crime of Unlawful Use of Weapons if He or She Knowingly:**

- (1) Carries concealed upon or about his or her person a knife, a firearm, a blackjack or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use into any area where firearms are restricted under section [571.107](#); or
3. .... Subdivisions (1), (5), (8), and (10) of subsection 1 of this section do not apply when the actor is transporting such weapons in a nonfunctioning state or in an unloaded state when ammunition is not readily accessible or when such weapons are not readily accessible. Subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of this section does not apply to any person nineteen years of age or older or eighteen years of age or older and a member of the United States Armed Forces, or honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces, transporting a concealable firearm in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle, so long as such concealable firearm is otherwise lawfully possessed, nor when the actor is also in possession of an exposed firearm or projectile weapon for the lawful pursuit of game, or is in his or her dwelling unit or upon premises over which the actor has possession, authority or control, or is traveling in a continuous journey peaceably through this state. Subdivision (10) of subsection 1 of this section does not apply if the firearm is otherwise lawfully possessed by a person while traversing school premises for the purposes of transporting a student to or from school, or possessed by an adult for the purposes of facilitation of a school-sanctioned firearm-related event or club event. A.L. 2021 S.B. 26 merged with S.B. 53 & 60

**Note:** No Permit/License to carry is needed to carry a loaded concealable firearm in a vehicle in Missouri as long as the person can legally possess the firearm. A long gun is not a “Concealable Firearm.” Also Missouri Game laws state: 3 CSR 10-11.180 (5) Firearms firing single projectiles are prohibited department areas except for deer hunting as authorized in the annual *Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations*. They list numerous Conservations Areas in the Regulation and a long gun fires a single projectile. Check the Regulations for more information. [Handgunlaw.us](#) does not know how this would apply to a long gun secured in a vehicle. Use Caution.

[Montana](#) [Back to Index](#)

Handgunlaw.us can find no Montana Statutes/Administrative Rules/Hunting Regulations concerning the transporting of firearms in a vehicle.



Handgunlaw.us found two articles about hunting in Montana and they state a long gun can't be loaded while being transported in a vehicle. There is no definition for what Montana considers a loaded or unloaded firearm. With no definition on what the state considers a loaded firearm at the minimum if keeping a long gun in your vehicle all the time I would have no cartridge in the firing chamber, internal or attached magazine.

Nebraska

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**28-1204.04. Unlawful possession of a firearm at a school; penalty; exceptions; confiscation of certain firearms; disposition.**

(1) Any person who possesses a firearm in a school, on school grounds, in a school-owned vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event is guilty of the offense of unlawful possession of a firearm at a school. Unlawful possession of a firearm at a school is a Class IV felony. This subsection shall not apply to

- (f) firearms contained within a private vehicle operated by a nonstudent adult which are not loaded and
    - (i) are encased or
    - (ii) are in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle,
- Laws 2018, LB909, § 1.

**37-522. Shotgun on highway; restrictions; violation; penalty.**

It shall be unlawful to have or carry, except as permitted by law, any shotgun having shells in either the chamber, receiver, or magazine in or on any vehicle on any highway. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor and shall be fined at least fifty dollars.

Laws 1998, LB 922, § 242.

**Note:** Above law also pertains to any long gun in a vehicle.

Nevada

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**Note:** Handgunlaw.us can't find in Nevada law how a long gun must be transported other than being unloaded as described in **NRS 503.165 below.**

**NRS: CHAPTER 503 - Hunting, Fishing And Trapping; Miscellaneous Protective Measures**

**NRS 503.165 Carrying Loaded Rifle or Shotgun in or on Vehicle on or Along Public Way Unlawful; Exceptions.**

1. It is unlawful to carry a loaded rifle or loaded shotgun in or on any vehicle which is standing on or along, or is being driven on or along, any public highway or any other way open to the public.
  2. For the purposes of this section:
    - (a) A rifle or shotgun is loaded when there is an unexpended cartridge or shell in the firing chamber, but not when the only cartridges or shells are in the magazine.
    - (b) A muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading musket is not loaded if the priming compound or element, including, without limitation, the priming powder or the unfired primer or percussion cap, is removed from the muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading musket
  3. The provisions of this section do not apply to paraplegics, persons with one or both legs amputated or who have suffered a paralysis of one or both legs which severely impedes walking, or peace officers and members of the Armed Forces of this State or the United States while on duty or going to or returning from duty.
- 2019, 402

**Nevada now preempts all local firearm laws. No Town/City/County can have any ordinance more stringent than state law.**

New Hampshire

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Title XVIII Fish and Game  
Chapter 207 General Provisions as to Fish and Game  
Definitions, Inclusions, Methods of Taking, Etc.  
Section 207:7

**207:7 Hunting From Motor Vehicle, OHRV, Snowmobile, Boat, or Aircraft. –**



**I.** No person shall take or attempt to take wild birds or wild animals from a motor vehicle, OHRV, snowmobile as defined in RSA 215-C:1, boat, aircraft or other craft propelled by mechanical power.

**II.** No person shall have or carry, in or on a motor vehicle, OHRV, snowmobile, or aircraft, when moving, a cocked crossbow, a loaded rifle or loaded shotgun, muzzleloader, or air rifle, except a person or a person's agent while in the act of protecting his or her interest in their livestock or crops. Except when crossing or traveling on a public way, such person or the person's agent may carry a loaded rifle or shotgun, muzzleloader, or air rifle while traveling through or between farming or agricultural areas while in the course of protecting his or her interest in their livestock or crops.

**III.** No person shall have in or on a boat or other craft while being propelled by mechanical power, or in a boat or other craft being towed by a boat or other craft propelled by mechanical power, a cocked crossbow, a loaded rifle or loaded shotgun, muzzleloader, or air rifle.

**IV.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to law enforcement officers carrying guns in the line of duty.

Source. 2018 Eff 8/24/18

## [New Jersey](#)

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New Jersey Law states that before possessing or transporting any rifle or shotgun you must have a FID Card. A FID allows you to purchase and possess a firearm.

**2C:39-6 Exemptions.** e. Nothing in subsections b., c., and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent a person keeping or carrying about the person's place of business, residence, premises or other land owned or possessed by the person, any firearm, or from carrying the same, in the manner specified in subsection g. of this section, from any place of purchase to the person's residence or place of business, between the person's dwelling and place of business, between one place of business or residence and another when moving, or between the person's dwelling or place of business and place where the firearms are repaired, for the purpose of repair. For the purposes of this section, a place of business shall be deemed to be a fixed location.

f. Nothing in subsections b., c. and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent:

(1) A member of any rifle or pistol club organized in accordance with the rules prescribed by the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, in going to or from a place of target practice, carrying firearms necessary for target practice, provided that the club has filed a copy of its charter with the superintendent and annually submits a list of its members to the superintendent and provided further that the firearms are carried in the manner specified in subsection g. of this section;

(2) A person carrying a firearm or knife in the woods or fields or upon the waters of this State for the purpose of hunting, target practice or fishing, provided that the firearm or knife is legal and appropriate for hunting or fishing purposes in this State and the person has in his possession a valid hunting license, or, with respect to fresh water fishing, a valid fishing license;

(3) A person transporting any firearm or knife while traveling:

(a) Directly to or from any place for the purpose of hunting or fishing, provided the person has in his possession a valid hunting or fishing license; or

(b) Directly to or from any target range, or other authorized place for the purpose of practice, match, target, trap or skeet shooting exhibitions, provided in all cases that during the course of the travel all firearms are carried in the manner specified in subsection g. of this section and the person has complied with all the provisions and requirements of Title 23 of the Revised Statutes and any amendments thereto and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder; or

(c) In the case of a firearm, directly to or from any exhibition or display of firearms which is sponsored by any law enforcement agency, any rifle or pistol club, or any firearms collectors club, for the purpose of displaying the firearms to the public or to the members of the organization or club, provided, however, that not less than 30 days prior to the exhibition or display, notice of the exhibition or display shall be given to the Superintendent of the State Police by the sponsoring organization or club, and the sponsor has complied with any reasonable safety regulations the superintendent may promulgate. Any firearms transported pursuant to this section shall be transported in the manner specified in subsection g. of this section;

(4) A person from keeping or carrying about a private or commercial aircraft or any boat, or from transporting to or from the aircraft or boat for the purpose of installation or repair of a visual distress signaling device approved by the United States Coast Guard.



g. Any weapon being transported under paragraph (2) of subsection b., subsection e., or paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection f. of this section shall be carried unloaded and contained in a closed and fastened case, gunbox, securely tied package, or locked in the trunk of the automobile in which it is being transported, and in the course of travel shall include only deviations as are reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

2019, c.407, s.2.

### **2C:58-15. Minor's access to a loaded firearm; penalty, conditions**

1. a. A person who knows or reasonably should know that a minor is likely to gain access to a loaded firearm at a premises under the person's control commits a disorderly persons offense if a minor gains access to the firearm, unless the person:

- (1) Stores the firearm in a securely locked box or container;
- (2) Stores the firearm in a location which a reasonable person would believe to be secure; or
- (3) Secures the firearm with a trigger lock.

L.1991,c.397,s.1

### **2C:39-5 Unlawful possession of weapons.**

#### **c. Rifles and shotguns.**

(1) Any person who knowingly has in his possession any rifle or shotgun without having first obtained a firearms purchaser identification card in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.2C:58-3, is guilty of a crime of the third degree.

(2) Unless otherwise permitted by law, any person who knowingly has in his possession any loaded rifle or shotgun is guilty of a crime of the third degree.

2013, c.113, s.1

### **From NJ Hunting Regulations**

Possessing a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Possession of a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle is considered proof of pursuing or taking of wildlife.

Spotlighting deer during hours of darkness from a vehicle is illegal while in possession of a weapon capable of killing deer, **whether the weapon is cased, uncased or in a locked compartment.** This does not apply to the regular use of headlights when traveling in a normal manner on public or private roads.

### **From NJ State Police FAQs**

#### **Q6: How do you transport firearms?**

**A6:** Firearms shall be carried unloaded and contained in a closed and fastened case, gunbox, securely tied package, or locked in the trunk of the automobile in which it is being transported.

Ammunition must be transported in a separate container and locked in the trunk of the automobile in which it is being transported. If the vehicle does not have a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the firearm must be in a locked container other than the vehicle's glove compartment or console.

**Note:** You have to have a FID Card to possess any firearm. You can only transport the firearm to places you can legally have it. You just can't keep a long gun in your vehicle all the time. Even when transporting from one place to another you can legally have the firearm you can't deviate from your course of travel.

## **New Mexico**

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**30-1-12. Definitions.** As used in the Criminal Code [30-1-1 NMSA 1978]:

B. "deadly weapon" means any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; or any weapon which is capable of producing death or great bodily harm, including but not restricted to any types of daggers, brass knuckles, switchblade knives, bowie knives, poniards, butcher knives, dirk knives and all such weapons with which dangerous cuts can be given, or with which dangerous thrusts can be inflicted, including swordcanes, and any kind of sharp pointed canes, also slingshots, slung shots, bludgeons; or any other weapons with which dangerous wounds can be inflicted;

Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 1-13.

**Note:** There is no definition of "Deadly Weapon" in 30-7-1 or 30-7-2 below. The definition of "Deadly Weapon" states as used in 30-1-1 above that it applies to 30-1-1. [Handgunlaw.us](https://www.handgunlaw.us) believes that same definition would apply to 30-7-1 and 30-7-2.

### **30-7-1. "Carrying a Deadly Weapon".**



"Carrying a deadly weapon" means being armed with a deadly weapon by having it on the person, or in close proximity thereto, so that the weapon is readily accessible for use.

History: 1963, ch. 303, § 7-1

**30-7-2. Unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon.**

A. Unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon consists of carrying a concealed loaded firearm or any other type of deadly weapon anywhere, except in the following cases:

- (1) in the person's residence or on real property belonging to him as owner, lessee, tenant or licensee;
- (2) *in a private automobile or other private means of conveyance, for lawful protection of the person's or another's person or property;*
- (3) by a peace officer in accordance with the policies of his law enforcement agency who is certified pursuant to the Law Enforcement Training Act [29-7-1 NMSA 1978];
- (4) by a peace officer in accordance with the policies of his law enforcement agency who is employed on a temporary basis by that agency and who has successfully completed a course of firearms instruction prescribed by the New Mexico law enforcement academy or provided by a certified firearms instructor who is employed on a permanent basis by a law enforcement agency; or
- (5) by a person in possession of a valid concealed handgun license issued to him by the department of public safety pursuant to the provisions of the Concealed Handgun Carry Act [29-19-1 NMSA 1978].

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the carrying of any unloaded firearm.

C. Whoever commits unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

History: 2001, ch. 219, § 13.

**From New Mexico Hunting Regulations.**

Shine spotlights or other artificial lights into areas where big-game species or livestock may be present, while in possession of any sporting arm,

**Note:** Below are the items Handgunlaw.us can find concerning firearms. [Handgunlaw.us](https://www.handgunlaw.us) believes all these only apply when hunting or going to and from a hunt and possess a valid hunting license. State lands are off limits to possessing firearms except during hunting season and other state lands ban firearms completely. As you can see the transporting of a rifle or shotgun must have a certain length barrel.

**From New York Hunting and Trapping**

**Firearm**—all guns, including handguns, rifles, shotguns, muzzle-loaders and BB and pellet guns.

**Motor vehicle**—means every vehicle or device operated by any power other than muscle power including but not limited to automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, trailers, motorboats, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, whether operated on or off public highways.

**Rifle**—is a firearm with a barrel length of 16 inches or more with rifling in the barrel that uses metallic cartridges.

**Shotgun**—is a firearm with a barrel length of 18 inches or more that uses shells that are nonmetallic except for the base.

**Spotlighting**

You may use lights to observe wildlife under the following conditions:

- You are not within 500 feet of a home or farm building, unless you have permission from the owner or lessee (when looking for deer or bear).
- While in or on a motor vehicle and operating a light and no person has a firearm or bow unless:
  - the firearm or crossbow is taken down, or
  - the firearm or crossbow is securely fastened in a case, or
  - the firearm or crossbow is locked in the trunk of the vehicle, or
  - the firearm is a handgun.

**Transportation of Firearms**

- A person may not transport or possess a shotgun, rifle or crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, including any all terrain vehicle, unless the firearm is unloaded in both chamber and magazine or the crossbow is unloaded or taken down. A loaded firearm may be carried or possessed in a motorboat while legally hunting migratory game birds.



Rochester NY Mag Limits for Long Guns

[Ammunition Feeding Device](#) Magazines, belts, feedstrips, drums or clips capable of being attached to or utilized with any center-fire rifle, shotgun or pistol which employs the force of the expanding gases from a discharging cartridge to chamber a fresh round after each single pull of the trigger which, in the case of a rifle or shotgun holds in excess of five cartridges, or in the case of a pistol holds in excess of 17 cartridges

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us just read a story in the news from Saratoga County NY. (11/9/14) a young man who refused to consent to the search of his vehicle after deputies spotted an otherwise legal rifle in the back seat of the vehicle. The young man, who had been respectful in his conversation with the deputy, and who had tried to reason with the officers that the merely visible presence of a firearm through the window of the vehicle that they weren't even in was not a good reason to conduct a warrantless search. (vehicle was parked in a parking lot) The officer then assaulted the young man for his refusal to search. Officer was put on administrative leave and from the report if proven true will most likely lose his job. No citation was issued for the visible firearm on the back seat of the vehicle.

[North Carolina](#) [Back to Index](#)

Transporting Weapons  
Roy Cooper Attorney General

Given this general prohibition of carrying concealed weapons, individuals must be ever vigilant to ensure that their particular situation cannot be construed as concealing a weapon either on or about them without being properly authorized to do so with a valid North Carolina concealed handgun permit. Therefore, the person's accessibility to the weapon is of prime importance. It is for these reasons, that when transporting a weapon in a vehicle, even greater care must be exercised to ensure that the weapon is not concealed and within the ready access to an occupant of the vehicle. North Carolina law does not specifically address how to transport a weapon in an automobile. Therefore, the central question becomes: when is the weapon concealed and readily accessible to an occupant of the automobile? Obviously, a weapon would be concealed and readily accessible, and therefore in violation of our law, if it were placed in such areas of a vehicle as, under the seat of the automobile; in a bag in the back seat; in an unlocked glove compartment; or in some other manner is covered or hidden within the easy reach of an occupant of the vehicle. A previous opinion from this office was that a weapon would not be concealed if it were placed in a locked glove compartment, unless the key to the glove compartment was in the lock and the person was in close proximity and had ready access to it. A concern with this mode of transportation however is that it is quite susceptible to different interpretations, based on the various factors involved. Therefore, this may not be the most legally defensible method of transporting a weapon, and is discouraged.

While a weapon carried openly in an automobile would not be concealed, there are other problems attendant to this method of carrying a weapon. The principal drawback, of course, is in the event of a person being stopped by a law enforcement official, the officer may not readily know that person's purpose and intent for carrying a weapon. As such, it is imperative that a person immediately notify an officer of the presence of any weapon in the automobile, for the officer's and the vehicle's occupants' safety. Another obvious drawback is that a valuable weapon may be in plain view for potential thieves to see. The prohibition to carrying concealed weapons applies not only to handguns and other weapons commonly thought of as being easily hidden, but also to "long guns" as well. Therefore, shotguns and rifles concealed behind the seat of pickup trucks, and elsewhere in other vehicles, could similarly violate our law.

As to those vehicles with no easily discernible trunk area, for example vans, the question turns on a factual determination of when the weapon is within ready and easy access to an occupant of the vehicle. If the weapon is concealed near, in close proximity to, or within the convenient control and access of an occupant, which would allow him to use the weapon quickly, then a fair probability exists that the occupant is in violation of the law. Therefore, care must be exercised by any occupant of a vehicle to ensure that the weapons are securely locked away in as remote an area as possible in relation to the passenger compartment of the vehicle. It is important to emphasize that these prohibitions apply to passengers, as well as the driver of a vehicle. From: **NC Firearms Laws by AG**

From North Carolina Hunting Regulations.

Local laws prohibit or restrict hunting or shooting from public roads or possession of a loaded firearm on road right-of-ways in some counties.



**State Fish Hatcheries** It is unlawful to possess a loaded fire arm within a posted restricted zone on any state-owned fish hatchery or to discharge a firearm into or across such a restricted zone.

**From NC Firearm Laws by the State Attorney General**

**K. For purposes of carrying concealed weapons, does it make a difference if the weapon is unloaded?**

**Answer:** No. North Carolina General Statute § 14-269 does not specify whether the weapon has to be loaded or unloaded. Rather, the location of the weapon is looked at to determine whether or not it is concealed.

Under G.S. § 14-316, a person may not knowingly permit a child under the age of twelve (12) to have access to or possession, custody, or use of any gun, pistol, or other dangerous firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, unless the person has the permission of the child’s parent or guardian and the child is under the supervision of an adult.

**§ 14-409.40. Statewide uniformity of local regulation.**

- (a)** It is declared by the General Assembly that the regulation of firearms is properly an issue of general, statewide concern, and that the entire field of regulation of firearms is preempted from regulation by local governments except as provided by this section.
- (a1)** The General Assembly further declares that the lawful design, marketing, manufacture, distribution, sale, or transfer of firearms or ammunition to the public is not an unreasonably dangerous activity and does not constitute a nuisance per se and furthermore, that it is the unlawful use of firearms and ammunition, rather than their lawful design, marketing, manufacture, distribution, sale, or transfer that is the proximate cause of injuries arising from their unlawful use. This subsection applies only to causes of action brought under subsection (g) of this section.
- (b)** Unless otherwise permitted by statute, no county or municipality, by ordinance, resolution, or other enactment, shall regulate in any manner the possession, ownership, storage, transfer, sale, purchase, licensing, or registration of firearms, firearms ammunition, components of firearms, dealers in firearms, or dealers in handgun components or parts.
- (c)** Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, a county or municipality, by zoning or other ordinance, may regulate or prohibit the sale of firearms at a location only if there is a lawful, general, similar regulation or prohibition of commercial activities at that location. Nothing in this subsection shall restrict the right of a county or municipality to adopt a general zoning plan that prohibits any commercial activity within a fixed distance of a school or other educational institution except with a special use permit issued for a commercial activity found not to pose a danger to the health, safety, or general welfare of persons attending the school or educational institution within the fixed distance.
- (d)** No county or municipality, by zoning or other ordinance, shall regulate in any manner firearms shows with regulations more stringent than those applying to shows of other types of items.
- (e)** A county or municipality may regulate the transport, carrying, or possession of firearms by employees of the local unit of government in the course of their employment with that local unit of government.
- (f)** **Nothing contained in this section prohibits municipalities or counties from application of their authority under G.S. 153A-129, 160A-189, 14-269, 14-269.2, 14-269.3, 14-269.4, 14-277.2, 14-415.11, 14-415.23, including prohibiting the possession of firearms in public-owned buildings, on the grounds or parking areas of those buildings, or in public parks or recreation areas, except nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a person from storing a firearm within a motor vehicle while the vehicle is on these grounds or areas.** Nothing contained in this section prohibits municipalities or counties from exercising powers provided by law in states of emergency declared under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes.

2015-195, s. 12

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us can’t find anything concerning carrying long guns in vehicles in North Carolina except what is listed above. **Concealed is the big item as even mentioned by the AG in the “NC Firearm Laws”** above. Handgunlaw.us can’t find anything that states you can’t transport it lying on the seat in the open. Put a blanket over it on the seat and that would be concealed which is illegal. Though the AG states it is not Loaded or Unloaded but concealed that makes it a violation. [Handgunlaw.us](https://www.handgunlaw.us) recommends unloaded and cased in the trunk or the far back of a SUV and there should be no problem keeping a long gun in your vehicle. That would keep you legal in all the states boarding North Carolina if you live close to the boarder.



**62.1-02-10. Carrying loaded firearm in certain vehicles prohibited - Penalty - Exceptions.**

An individual may not keep or carry a loaded firearm in or on any motor vehicle, including an off-highway vehicle or snowmobile in this state. An individual violating this section is guilty of an infraction. This prohibition does not apply to:

3. An individual possessing a valid concealed weapons license from this state or who has reciprocity under section 62.1-04-03.1 with a handgun.
8. An individual with a handgun who is not otherwise precluded from possessing a class 2 firearm and dangerous weapon license under chapter 62.1-04 and who possesses a valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued by the department of transportation or by the individual's state or territory of residence.
9. An individual who possesses a rifle or shotgun, is not in the field hunting or trapping, and is not otherwise precluded from possessing a class 2 firearm and dangerous weapon license under chapter 62.1-04 and possesses a valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued by the department of transportation or by the individual's state or territory of residence. [HB 1339](#) 2023

**Note:** If you can legally possess a firearm by state and federal law you can carry Concealed in North Dakota. North Dakota only honors a permit if the person has a permit from their state of residence and their state has reciprocity with North Dakota

**Title 6, Division 10****§ 10206. Lawful transportation of firearms.**

(a) Any person who is not otherwise prohibited by the law from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be permitted to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry the firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry the firearm if the firearm is transported in accordance with this section.

- (b) (1) If the transportation of the firearm is by a vehicle, the firearm shall be unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported shall be readily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the transporting vehicle.  
(2) If the transporting vehicle does not have a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console, and the firearm shall be unloaded.
- (c) If the transportation of the firearm is in a manner other than in a vehicle, the firearm shall be:
  - (1) unloaded;
  - (2) inside a locked container; and
  - (3) separate from any ammunition.

(d) It shall be a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both, for any person to knowingly transport a firearm in violation of this section. Source:PL 19-42§ 6 (Apr. 11, 2016), modified.

**Note:** No type of permit/license is required to transport a long gun in a vehicle as described below.

**2923.16 Improperly Handling Firearms in a Motor Vehicle.**

(A) No person shall knowingly discharge a firearm while in or on a motor vehicle.

(B) No person shall knowingly transport or have a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle in such a manner that the firearm is accessible to the operator or any passenger without leaving the vehicle.



(C) No person shall knowingly transport or have a firearm in a motor vehicle, unless the person may lawfully possess that firearm under applicable law of this state or the United States, the firearm is unloaded, and the firearm is carried in one of the following ways:

- (1) In a closed package, box, or case;
- (2) In a compartment that can be reached only by leaving the vehicle;
- (3) In plain sight and secured in a rack or holder made for the purpose;
- (4) If the firearm is at least twenty-four inches in overall length as measured from the muzzle to the part of the stock furthest from the muzzle and if the barrel is at least eighteen inches in length, either in plain sight with the action open or the weapon stripped, or, if the firearm is of a type on which the action will not stay open or which cannot easily be stripped, in plain sight.

SB 215 Jun3 13, 2022

#### **Sec. 2923.16. (K)**

(5)(a) "Unloaded" means, with respect to a firearm other than a firearm described in division (K)(6) of this section, that no ammunition is in the firearm in question, no magazine or speed loader containing ammunition is inserted into the firearm in question, and one of the following applies:

- (i) There is no ammunition in a magazine or speed loader that is in the vehicle in question and that may be used with the firearm in question.
- (ii) Any magazine or speed loader that contains ammunition and that may be used with the firearm in question is stored in a compartment within the vehicle in question that cannot be accessed without leaving the vehicle or is stored in a container that provides complete and separate enclosure.

(b) For the purposes of division (K)(5)(a)(ii) of this section, a "container that provides complete and separate enclosure" includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (i) A package, box, or case with multiple compartments, as long as the loaded magazine or speed loader and the firearm in question either are in separate compartments within the package, box, or case, or, if they are in the same compartment, the magazine or speed loader is contained within a separate enclosure in that compartment that does not contain the firearm and that closes using a snap, button, buckle, zipper, hook and loop closing mechanism, or other fastener that must be opened to access the contents or the firearm is contained within a separate enclosure of that nature in that compartment that does not contain the magazine or speed loader;
- (ii) A pocket or other enclosure on the person of the person in question that closes using a snap, button, buckle, zipper, hook and loop closing mechanism, or other fastener that must be opened to access the contents.
- (c) For the purposes of divisions (K)(5)(a) and (b) of this section, ammunition held in stripper-clips or in en-bloc clips is not considered ammunition that is loaded into a magazine or speed loader.

SB 215 Jun3 13, 2022

## **Oklahoma**

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### **21 O.S. § 1272 Unlawful Carry**

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful for any person to carry upon or about his or her person, or in a purse or other container belonging to the person, any pistol, revolver, shotgun or rifle whether loaded or unloaded or any blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain, metal knuckles, or any other offensive weapon, whether such weapon be concealed or unconcealed, except this section shall not prohibit:

6. The transporting by vehicle on a public roadway or the carrying of a firearm, concealed or unconcealed, loaded or unloaded, by a person who is twenty-one (21) years of age or older or by a person who is eighteen (18) years of age but not yet twenty-one (21) years of age and the person is a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard or was discharged under honorable conditions from the United States Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard, and the person is otherwise not disqualified from the possession or purchase of a firearm under state or federal law and is not carrying the firearm in furtherance of a crime.

2021, SB 672, c. 292, § 1

### **21 O.S. § 1289.7 Firearms in Vehicles**

A. Any person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing or purchasing a firearm and is not carrying or transporting a firearm in the furtherance of a crime may transport in or on a vehicle a firearm, loaded or unloaded, at any time.



**B.** Any person eighteen (18) to twenty (20) years of age, who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing or purchasing a firearm and is not carrying or transporting a firearm in the furtherance of a crime may transport in or on a vehicle, open or concealed, an unloaded firearm at any time.

**C.** It shall be unlawful for any person transporting a firearm in or on a vehicle to fail or refuse to identify that the person is in actual possession of a firearm when demanded by a law enforcement officer of this state during any arrest, detainment or routine traffic stop. Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection may be issued a citation for an amount not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). 2021, SB 672, c. 292, § 2

## **21 O.S 1290.2 – Definitions**

**A.** As Used In the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act:

2. "Concealed handgun" means a loaded or unloaded pistol or handgun not openly visible to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person;
3. "Unconcealed handgun" or "open carry" means a loaded or unloaded pistol or handgun carried upon the person **in a holster where the firearm is visible, or carried upon the person using a scabbard, sling or case** designed for carrying firearms; and
4. "Pistol" or "handgun" shall have the same definition as provided in the Oklahoma Firearms Act of 1971, defined in Section 1289.3 of this title.

**B.** The definition of pistol or handgun for purposes of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act shall not apply to imitation pistols, flare guns, underwater fishing guns or blank pistols. Laws 2021, SB 106, c. 265, § 4

## **Oregon**

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### **166.250 Unlawful possession of firearms.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section or ORS 166.260, 166.270, 166.274, 166.291, 166.292 or 166.410 to 166.470 or section 5, chapter 826, Oregon Laws 2009, a person commits the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm if the person knowingly:

- (a) Carries any firearm concealed upon the person;
- (b) Possesses a handgun that is concealed and readily accessible to the person within any vehicle; or
- (c) Possesses a firearm and:
  - (A) Is under 18 years of age;

2015 c.497 §§3,4

### **629-025-0050 Administrative Rule Designated Recreation Areas.**

(1) State forest lands designated by the Forester as "Designated Recreation Areas" may include, but are not limited to campgrounds, camping areas, day use areas, trailheads, staging areas, and boat launch sites. Maps showing the Designated Recreation Areas shall be kept on file at the State Forester's office and the applicable District office, and shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Firearms, Weapons, Explosives: Within a designated recreation area no person shall:

- (c) Possess any loaded firearms.

DOF 1-2016, f. & cert

**166.360 Definitions for ORS 166.360 to 166.380.** As used in ORS 166.360 to 166.380, unless the context requires otherwise:

**(6) "Loaded Firearm" Means:**

- (a) A breech-loading firearm in which there is an unexpended cartridge or shell in or attached to the firearm including but not limited to, in a chamber, magazine or clip which is attached to the firearm.
- (b) A muzzle-loading firearm which is capped or primed and has a powder charge and ball, shot or projectile in the barrel or cylinder.

2021 c.146 §9

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us can find no Statute/Admin Rule/Regulation concerning Long Guns in vehicle except for 629-025-0050 and that covers just Loaded Firearms. 166.250 above only pertains to Handguns in vehicles. The Oregon Firearms Federation ["Lists Cities/Counties"](#) that ban Open Loaded Carry which would most likely cover loaded long guns in a vehicle plus other restrictions on firearms on/in certain properties in their city/county. As long as the long gun is not loaded and you can legally possess the firearm anywhere in the vehicle.



**Note:** The Long Gun can't be loaded. The law doesn't state it has to be cased, visible or stowed out of sight. It does state that a loaded magazine can't be in the same case as the firearm. Do read the law on what Pennsylvania considers a loaded firearm and how to store loaded magazines legally. Also having a permit/license to carry does not allow you to have a loaded long gun in a vehicle. The Definition below in the section dealing with a License to Carry a Firearm only applies to those firearms listed in the definition and long guns are not listed.

### [Title 18 § 6102. Definitions](#)

**"Firearm."** Any pistol or revolver with a barrel length less than 15 inches, any shotgun with a barrel length less than 18 inches or any rifle with a barrel length less than 16 inches, or any pistol, revolver, rifle or shotgun with an overall length of less than 26 inches. The barrel length of a firearm shall be determined by measuring from the muzzle of the barrel to the face of the closed action, bolt or cylinder, whichever is applicable.

June 28, 2011, P.L.48, No.10, eff. 60 days)

### [Title 23 § 6106.1. Carrying loaded weapons other than firearms.](#)

**(a) General rule.--**Except as provided in Title 34 (relating to game), no person shall carry a loaded pistol, revolver, shotgun or rifle, other than a firearm as defined in section 6102 (relating to definitions), in any vehicle. The provisions of this section shall not apply to persons excepted from the requirement of a license to carry firearms under section 6106(b)(1), (2), (5) or (6) (relating to firearms not to be carried without a license) nor shall the provisions of this section be construed to permit persons to carry firearms in a vehicle where such conduct is prohibited by section 6106.

**(b) Penalty.--**A person who violates the provisions of this section commits a summary offense.

P.L.1024, No.17, eff. 120 days

### [Title 34 § 2503. Loaded firearms in vehicles.](#)

**(a) General rule.--**Except as otherwise provided in this title, it is unlawful for any person to have a firearm of any kind in or on or against any conveyance propelled by mechanical power or its attachments at any time whether or not the vehicle or its attachment is in motion unless the firearm is unloaded. The exceptions in this subsection do not apply when attempting to locate game or wildlife with an artificial light or when exercising any privileges granted by this title which may be exercised only when not in the possession of a firearm.

P.L.1442, No.184, eff. 60 days

### [18 Pa.C.S.A. § 6102 Definitions](#)

**"Loaded."** A firearm is loaded if the firing chamber, the nondetachable magazine or, in the case of a revolver, any of the chambers of the cylinder contain ammunition capable of being fired. In the case of a firearm which utilizes a detachable magazine, the term shall mean a magazine suitable for use in said firearm which magazine contains such ammunition and has been inserted in the firearm or is in the same container or, where the container has multiple compartments, the same compartment thereof as the firearm. If the magazine is inserted into a pouch, holder, holster or other protective device that provides for a complete and secure enclosure of the ammunition, then the pouch, holder, holster or other protective device shall be deemed to be a separate compartment.

### [§ 6106. Firearms not to be Carried Without a License.](#)

#### **(c) Sportsman's firearm permit.--**

**(1)** Before any exception shall be granted under paragraph (b)(9) or (10) of this section to any person 18 years of age or older licensed to hunt, trap or fish or who has been issued a permit relating to hunting dogs, such person shall, at the time of securing his hunting, furtaking or fishing license or any time after such license has been issued, secure a sportsman's firearm permit from the county treasurer. The sportsman's firearm permit shall be issued immediately and be valid throughout this Commonwealth for a period of five years from the date of issue for any legal firearm, when carried in conjunction with a valid hunting, furtaking or fishing license or permit relating to hunting dogs. The sportsman's firearm permit shall be in triplicate on a form to be furnished by the Pennsylvania State Police. The original permit shall be delivered to the person, and the first copy thereof, within seven days, shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police by the county treasurer. The second copy shall be retained by the county treasurer for a period of two years from the date of expiration. The county treasurer shall be entitled to collect a fee of not more than \$6 for each such permit issued, which shall include the cost of any official form. The Pennsylvania State Police may recover from the county treasurer the cost of any such form, but may not charge more than \$1 for each official permit form furnished to the county treasurer.

2008, P.L.1628, No.131



**Title 25, Subtitle 1, Part V, Chpt 51A Subchapter 2 § 456a. Weapons License**

~~(2) Unless the licensee also holds a permit to carry weapons, the weapon may not be carried by the licensee on his/her person; and that to be able to transport said weapon without a permit to carry, the weapon must be unloaded and transported inside a closed case whose contents are not visible and which may not be in plain sight. Provided, That in the case of private security guards who hold a permit to carry, are uniformed and in the exercise of their duties, they may carry the weapon in plain sight.~~

~~**Transportation.** Means the mediate or immediate possession of a weapon for the purpose of taking it from one place to another. Said transportation must be carried out by a person with a current weapons license and the weapon must be unloaded and transported inside a closed case whose contents are not visible and which may not be in plain sight.~~

**Notice** Please look at the Puerto Rico page at Handgunlaw.us at <https://www.handgunlaw.us/states/puertorico.pdf> as PR laws changed and they are not putting out anything in English at this time October 2021. The above quoted law is from their previous laws on firearms and may not be valid today.

**Rhode Island**[Back to Index](#)**§ 11-47-51 Loaded Rifles and Shotguns in Vehicles and Roadways. –\**

(a) It is unlawful for any person to have in his or her possession a loaded rifle or loaded shotgun or a rifle or shotgun from the magazine of which all shells and cartridges have not been removed while upon or along any public highway, road, lane, or trail within this state....

(b) Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or by a fine of up to five thousand dollars(\$5,000) or both. [S2825](#) & [H7358A](#) 2022

**From Rhode Island Hunting Regulations:**

**Jack-lighting** – the use (by an individual or in conjunction with others) of an artificial light at any time to illuminate, jack light, locate, attempt to locate, or show up wild birds or mammals or any other vertebrates when that person or persons have in their actual possession, in the passenger compartment of their vehicle, or in the storage area of a trunk or van, unless locked in a case, a crossbow, long bow (straight limb, reflex, re-curve, or compound bow) rifle, gun, or pistol, except in accordance with these rules and regulations.

**Note:** Rhode Island Law spells out how pistols and revolvers have to be carried in a vehicle. [Handgunlaw.us](#) can find no Statute/Administrative Rule/Hunting Regulations that states how a long gun has to be transport other than unloaded as spelled out in **§ 11-47-51**.

**South Carolina**[Back to Index](#)**Section 16-23-10.** Definitions. When used in this article

(10) "Luggage compartment" means the trunk of a motor vehicle which has a trunk; however, with respect to a motor vehicle which does not have a trunk, the term "luggage compartment" refers to the area of the motor vehicle in which the manufacturer designed that luggage be carried or to the area of the motor vehicle in which luggage is customarily carried. In a station wagon, van, hatchback vehicle, or sport utility vehicle, the term "luggage compartment" refers to the area behind, but not under, the rearmost seat. In a truck, the term "luggage compartment" refers to the area behind the rearmost seat, but not under the front seat.

(9) a person in a vehicle if the handgun is:

(a) secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, closed trunk, or in a closed container secured by an integral fastener and transported in the luggage compartment of the vehicle; however, this item is not violated if the glove compartment, console, or trunk is opened in the presence of a law enforcement officer for the sole purpose of retrieving a driver's license, registration, or proof of insurance

Section 2.D, eff February 11, 2014.



**Section 50-11-760.** Hunting from certain public roads and railroad rights-of-way prohibited; definitions; penalties.

(A) It is unlawful for a person to hunt from a public road or railroad right-of-way if the person does not have permission to hunt the land immediately adjacent to the public road or railroad right-of-way.

(B)(1) For purposes of this section, "hunting" includes: 2

(a) taking deer by occupying stands for that purpose; or

(b) possessing, carrying, or having readily accessible:

(i) a loaded center-fire rifle; or

(ii) a shotgun loaded with shot size larger than number four.

(2) For purposes of this section, "loaded" means a weapon within which any ammunition is contained.

(3) For purposes of this section, the terms "possessing", "carrying", and "having readily accessible" do not include a center-fire rifle or shotgun which is contained in a:

(a) closed compartment;

(b) closed vehicle trunk; or a

(c) vehicle traveling on a public road.

2003 Act No. 50, Section 1.

### SC Hunting Laws

#### Weapons

**3.4** – On WMAs all firearms transported in vehicles must be unloaded and secured in a weapons case, or in the trunk of a vehicle or in a locked toolbox.

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us can find no Statute/Administrative Rule/Hunting Regulation that states you can't have a long gun in your vehicle. The Statute on storing a handgun in a vehicle would most likely apply to storing/keeping a long gun in a vehicle Unloaded as per 50-11-760.

#### South Dakota

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**Note:** South Dakota Statutes do not say a long gun can or can't be transported in a vehicle. Transporting a pistol W/O a permit/license requires it to be in the trunk or cased. The hunting laws state there are many areas in the state that an uncased firearm can't be possessed. There are even places a long gun can't be possessed. Except for a few places stated in the Hunting Laws that Long Guns are not allowed unloaded and in the trunk or cased would meet South Dakota law. Also South Dakota's definition of loaded is below. It doesn't state if the magazine can be loaded and not in the firearm or not loaded at all. It can be interrupted either way.

**§ 22-1-2. Definition of terms.** Terms used in this title mean:

(6) "Concealed," any firearm that is totally hidden from view. If any part of the firearm is capable of being seen, it is not concealed;

(16) "Firearm," any weapon from which a projectile or projectiles may be discharged by gunpowder. As used in this subdivision, the term, gunpowder, includes any propellant that upon oxidization emits heat and light and is commonly used in firearms cartridges;

(22A) "Loaded firearm," any functional firearm that contains a cartridge, shell, or projectile in the chamber, including any chamber in the cylinder of a revolver; SL 2020, ch 79, § 1; SL 022, ch 60, § 1.

#### State Park Rules

- Uncased firearms and bows can be possessed only by licensed hunters during established seasons and are permitted on designated rifle and archery ranges year-round.
- Archery and firearm hunting - Allowed in some state parks and recreation areas during the state's established seasons.
- Uncased firearms and bows are prohibited year-round in all designated campgrounds and at Bear Butte State Park (east of Hwy 79), Beaver Creek Nature Area, Lake Herman State Park, Spring Creek Recreation Area, Spirit Mound Historic Prairie and Oahe Downstream Recreation Area (except during special disabled hunting events).
- Prohibited Firearms - Uncased .22-caliber firearms, air guns, BB guns, slingshots and paintball guns are not allowed in the parks with the exception of designated Shooting Ranges.

**41:03:01:16.** Restrictions on use of firearms, air guns, crossbows, and bows in the state park system – Exceptions.



Uncased firearms, air guns, crossbows, and bows are prohibited in the state park system with the following exceptions:

(1) Uncased firearms, air guns, crossbows, and bows are permitted on designated rifle and archery ranges year-round and may be transported or carried uncased to and from ranges and boat ramps from designated parking areas;

(2) A firearm, air gun, crossbow, or bow legally transported in a motor vehicle, trailer camper, or boat, pursuant to state law, is considered cased for purposes of this section;

(a) Uncased firearms, air guns, crossbows, and bows are prohibited year-round in all established campgrounds, designated day-use areas, and at Beaver Creek Nature Area, Lake Herman State Park, Spring Creek Recreation Area, Spirit Mound Historic Prairie, Bear Butte State Park east of State Highway 79, Oahe Downstream Recreation Area except for a hunter who possesses a valid deer license for Unit WRD-58D, as described in chapter 41:06:20, or a valid turkey license for Unit PST-58B, as described in chapter 41:06:13, and Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve and Good Earth State Park, except for a resident hunter who possesses a valid archery deer license and an access permit, as described in chapter 41:06:22, or except for a resident hunter or a mentored hunter who possesses a valid archery spring turkey license and an access permit, as described in chapter 41:06:13;

Volume 37, Issue 5, eff. January 1, 2021.

## [Tennessee](#)

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**Note:** If you can legally possess a firearm no type of permit/license is required to transport a loaded long gun in a vehicle as described below.

### **Title 39 Criminal Offenses**

#### **Chapter 17 Offenses Against Public Health, Safety and Welfare**

#### **Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1307 (2014)**

#### **39-17-1307. Unlawful carrying or possession of a weapon.**

- (a) (1) A person commits an offense who carries, with the intent to go armed, a firearm or a club.
- (2) (A) The first violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class C misdemeanor, and, in addition to possible imprisonment as provided by law, may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).
- (B) A second or subsequent violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (C) A violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class A misdemeanor if the person's carrying of a handgun occurred at a place open to the public where one (1) or more persons were present.
- (2) A person commits an offense who possesses any deadly weapon with the intent to employ it during the commission of, attempt to commit, or escape from any offense not defined as a dangerous offense by § 39-17-1324.
- (e) (1) It is an exception to the application of subsection (a) that a person is carrying or possessing a firearm, loaded firearm, or firearm ammunition in a motor vehicle or boat if the person:
- (A) Is not prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm by 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) or purchasing a firearm by § 39-17-1316; and
- (B) Is in lawful possession of the motor vehicle or boat.
- (2)(A) As used in this subsection (e):
- (i) "Boat" means any watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water, designed and used primarily for navigation or transportation on the water; and
- (ii) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in § 55-1-103;
- (B) "Motor vehicle" does not include any motor vehicle that is:
- (i) Owned or leased by a governmental or private entity that has adopted a written policy prohibiting firearms or ammunition not required for employment within such a motor vehicle; and
- (ii) Provided by such entity to an employee for use during the course of employment.
- (f) (1) A person commits an offense who possesses a firearm, as defined in § 39-11-106(a), and:
- (A) Has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, and is still subject to the disabilities of such a conviction;
- (B) Is, at the time of the possession, subject to an order of protection that fully complies with 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8); or



(C) Is prohibited from possessing a firearm under any other state or federal law.

(3) For purposes of this section, a person does not possess a firearm, including, but not limited to, firearms registered under the National Firearms Act (26 U.S.C. § 5801 et seq.), if the firearm is in a safe or similar container that is securely locked and to which the respondent does not have the combination, keys or other means of normal access.

(5) If a violation of subdivision (f)(1) also constitutes a violation of § 36-3-625(h) or § 39-13-113(h), the respondent may be charged and convicted under any or all such section

(g) It is an exception to the application of subsection (a) that a person is carrying, whether openly or concealed, a handgun and:

(1) (A) The person is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; or

(B) The person is at least eighteen (18) years of age and:

(i) Is an honorably discharged or retired veteran of the United States armed forces;

(ii) Is an honorably discharged member of the army national guard, the army reserve, the navy reserve, the marine corps reserve, the air national guard, the air force reserve, or the coast guard reserve, who has successfully completed a basic training program; or

(iii) Is a member of the United States armed forces on active duty status or is a current member of the army national guard, the army reserve, the navy reserve, the marine corps reserve, the air national guard, the air force reserve, or the coast guard reserve, who has successfully completed a basic training program;

(2) The person lawfully possesses the handgun; and

(3) The person is in a place where the person is lawfully present.

HISTORY 2021, ch. 108, §§ 1, 13.

## [Texas](#)

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Texas has no law about carrying long guns in vehicles. Texas does have a statute concerning making a firearm accessible to a child that could affect open carrying a long gun in a vehicle all the time.

### [Title 10 Sec. 46.13. Making a Firearm Accessible To a Child.](#)

(a) In this section:

(1) "Child" means a person younger than 17 years of age.

(2) "Readily dischargeable firearm" means a firearm that is loaded with ammunition, whether or not a round is in the chamber.

(3) "Secure" means to take steps that a reasonable person would take to prevent the access to a readily dischargeable firearm by a child, including but not limited to placing a firearm in a locked container or temporarily rendering the firearm inoperable by a trigger lock or other means.

(b) A person commits an offense if a child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm and the person with criminal negligence:

(1) failed to secure the firearm; or

(2) left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access.

(c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the child's access to the firearm:

(1) was supervised by a person older than 18 years of age and was for hunting, sporting, or other lawful purposes;

(2) consisted of lawful defense by the child of people or property;

(3) was gained by entering property in violation of this code; or

(4) occurred during a time when the actor was engaged in an agricultural enterprise.

(d) Except as provided by Subsection (e), an offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

(e) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor if the child discharges the firearm and causes death or serious bodily injury to himself or another person.

(f) A peace officer or other person may not arrest the actor before the seventh day after the date on which the offense is committed if:

(1) the actor is a member of the family, as defined by Section 71.003, Family Code, of the child who discharged the firearm; and



(2) the child in discharging the firearm caused the death of or serious injury to the child.

(g) A dealer of firearms shall post in a conspicuous position on the premises where the dealer conducts business a sign that contains the following warning in block letters not less than one inch in height:

"It is unlawful to store, transport, or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children are likely to be and can obtain access to the firearm.

Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 62, Sec. 15.02(g)

## [Utah](#)

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### [76-10-501. Definitions.](#)

(18) "Securely encased" means not readily accessible for immediate use, such as held in a gun rack, or in a closed case or container, whether or not locked, or in a trunk or other storage area of a motor vehicle, not including a glove box or console box. Long guns can be cased or uncased. **Note:** They CANNOT be loaded unless you possess a Concealed Firearm Permit (or equivalent)

406,& 212, 2015 General Session

### [76-10-505. Carrying loaded firearm in vehicle or on street.](#)

(3) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(a)(i) and (ii), a person may not possess a loaded rifle, shotgun, or muzzle-loading rifle in a vehicle.

(4) A violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor.

Chapter 12, 2021 General Session

**Note:** Though Utah is a Permitless Carry state it only pertains to handguns. Loaded Long Guns can't be carried in a Vehicle.

## [Vermont](#)

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### [Title 10, Chapter 113 § 4705. Shooting From Motor Vehicles or Aircraft; Shooting From or Across Highway; Permit](#)

(b) A person shall not carry or possess while in or on a vehicle propelled by mechanical power or drawn by a vehicle propelled by mechanical power within the right of way of a public highway a rifle or shotgun containing a loaded cartridge or shell in the chamber, mechanism, or in a magazine, or clip within a rifle or shotgun, or a muzzle-loading rifle or shotgun that has been charged with powder and projectile and the ignition system of which has been enabled by having an affixed or attached percussion cap, primer, battery, or priming powder, except as permitted under subsections (d) and (e) of this section. A person who possesses a rifle or shotgun in or on a vehicle propelled by mechanical power, or drawn by a vehicle propelled by mechanical power within a right of way of a public highway shall upon demand of an enforcement officer exhibit the firearm for examination to determine compliance with this section.

2017, No. 170 (Adj. Sess.), § 8.

## [Virgin Islands](#)

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### [Title 14 Chapter 113.](#)

#### [§ 2253. Carrying of Firearms; Openly or Concealed; Evidence of Intent to Commit Crime of Violence; Definitions](#)

(a) Whoever, unless otherwise authorized by law, has, possesses, bears, transports or carries either, actually or constructively, openly or concealed any firearm, as defined in **Title 23, section 451(d)** of this code, loaded or unloaded, may be arrested without a warrant, and shall be sentenced to imprisonment of not less than one year nor more than five years and shall be fined not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$15,000 or both the fine and imprisonment, except that if such person shall have been convicted of a felony in any state, territory, or federal court of the United States, or if such firearm or an imitation thereof was had, possessed, borne, transported or carried by or under the proximate control of such person during the commission or attempted commission of a crime of violence, as defined in subsection (d) hereof, then such person shall be fined \$25,000 and imprisoned not less than fifteen (15) years nor more than twenty (20) years. The foregoing applicable penalties provided for violation of this section shall be in addition to the penalty provided for the commission of, or attempt to commit, the felony or crime of violence.

Sess. L. 2015, p. 228, 229

### [Title 23, Chapter 5.](#)

#### [§ 451. Definitions](#)



As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise--

- (a) "Ammunition" means any bullet, cartridge, projectile, buckshot, or any load placed or which may be placed in a firearm to be discharged.
- (d) "Firearm" means any device by whatever name known, capable of discharging ammunition by means of gas generated from an explosive composition, including any air gas or spring gun or any "BB" pistols or "BB" guns that have been adapted or modified to discharge projectiles as a firearm.

Sess. L. 2016, p. 35.

Virginia

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§ 15.2-915.2. Regulation of transportation of a loaded rifle or shotgun.

The governing body of any county or city may by ordinance make it unlawful for any person to transport, possess or carry a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle in any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway within such locality. Any violation of such ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$100. Conservation police officers, sheriffs and all other law-enforcement officers shall enforce the provisions of this section. No ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall be enforceable unless the governing body adopting such ordinance so notifies the Director of the Department of Wildlife Resources by registered mail prior to May 1 of the year in which such ordinance is to take effect.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to duly authorized law-enforcement officers or military personnel in the performance of their lawful duties, nor to any person who reasonably believes that a loaded rifle or shotgun is necessary for his personal safety in the course of his employment or business.

c. 462; 2020, c. 958.

What Does VA Consider A Loaded Firearm?

4VAC15-40-60. Hunting with dogs or possession of weapons in certain locations during closed season.

G. Meaning of "possession" of any hunting weapon and definition of "loaded crossbow," "loaded arrowgun," "loaded muzzleloader," and "loaded firearm." For the purpose of this section, the word "possession" shall include having any firearm or weapon used for hunting in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance. For the purpose of this section, a "loaded firearm" means a firearm in which ammunition is chambered or loaded in the magazine or clip when such magazine or clip is engaged or partially engaged in a firearm. The definition of a "loaded muzzleloader" will include a muzzleloading rifle, pistol, or shotgun that is capped, has a charged pan, or has a primer or battery installed in the muzzleloader. A "loaded crossbow" means a crossbow that is cocked and has either a bolt or arrow engaged or partially engaged on the shooting rail or track of the crossbow, or with a "trackless crossbow" when the crossbow is cocked and a bolt or arrow is nocked. "Loaded arrowgun" means an arrowgun that has an arrow or bolt inserted on the arrow rest or in the barrel. "Hunting weapon" means any weapon allowable for hunting as defined in § 29.1-519 of the Code of Virginia.

Vol 35, Issue 23, eff. August 1, 2019

**Note:** Unloaded and cased would be legal in Virginia. Ammunition can be in the same case as the firearm.

Washington

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RCW 77.15.460

Loaded rifle or shotgun in vehicle — Unlawful use or possession — Unlawful use of a loaded firearm — Penalty.

- (1) A person is guilty of unlawful possession of a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle, as defined in RCW 46.04.320, or upon an off-road vehicle, as defined in RCW 46.04.365, if:
- (a) The person carries, transports, conveys, possesses, or controls a rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle, or upon an off-road vehicle, except as allowed by department rule; and
  - (b) The rifle or shotgun contains shells or cartridges in the magazine or chamber, or is a muzzle-loading firearm that is loaded and capped or primed.
- (3) Unlawful possession of a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle or upon an off-road vehicle, and unlawful use of a loaded firearm are misdemeanors.
- (5) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, a rifle or shotgun shall not be considered loaded if the detachable clip or magazine is not inserted in or attached to the rifle or shotgun.

2018 c 168 § 1;

Washington Hunting Regulations



**Loaded Firearms in a Vehicle**

It is illegal to carry, convey, transport, possess, or control a loaded shotgun or rifle in any motor vehicle (except for disabled hunters in compliance with WAC 232-12-828). A rifle or shotgun containing shells or cartridges in either the chamber or magazine, or a muzzle-loading firearm that is loaded and capped or primed is considered loaded. It is also illegal to use an off-road vehicle for hunting unless the hunter possesses a disabled hunter permit.

**Loaded Long Guns in Vehicles/State Parks/St Forest Recreation Areas/Trails**

**§20-2-5. Unlawful Methods of Hunting and Fishing and Other Unlawful Acts; Sunday Hunting.**

- (a) Except as authorized by the director or by law, it is unlawful at any time for any person to:
- (9) Carry an uncased or loaded firearm in the woods of this state or in state parks, state forests, state wildlife management areas, or state rail trails with the following permissible exceptions:
    - (A) A person in possession of a valid license or permit during open firearms hunting season for wild animals and nonmigratory wild birds where hunting is lawful;
    - (B) A person hunting or taking unprotected species of wild animals, wild birds, and migratory wild birds during the open season, in the open fields, open water, and open marshes of the state where hunting is lawful;
    - (C) A person carrying a firearm pursuant to §20-2-6 of this code; (Own Property)
    - (D) A person carrying a firearm for self-defense who is not prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law; or
    - (E) A person carrying a rifle or shotgun for self-defense who is not prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law: **Provided, That this exception does not apply to an uncased rifle or shotgun carried specifically in state park or state forest recreational facilities and marked trails within state park or state forest borders;**
  - (17) Have a bow and gun, or have a gun and any arrow, in the fields or woods at the same time;
  - (18) Have a crossbow in the woods or fields, or use a crossbow to hunt, take, or attempt to take any wildlife except as otherwise provided in §20-2-5g and §20-2-42w of this code;

**Note:** [HB 4048](#) passed in 2022 has the preamble as below which amended §20-2-5 removing the prohibitions as listed below.

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-2-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing the criminal prohibitions against carrying loaded long guns, nocked cross bows with a nocked bolt, or bows with a nocked arrow in a motor vehicle; and removing prohibitions against carrying long guns, cross bows, or bows, that are not in a case or taken apart, in motor vehicles during evening hours.

**Note:** No type of permit/license is required to transport a long gun in a vehicle as described below.

**167.31 Safe use and transportation of firearms and bows.**

- (g) “Unloaded” means any of the following:
- 1. Having no shell or cartridge in the chamber of a firearm or in the magazine attached to a firearm.
  - 2. In the case of a cap lock muzzle-loading firearm, having the cap removed.
  - 3. In the case of a flint lock muzzle-loading firearm, having the flash-pan cleaned of powder.
  - 4. In the case of an electronic ignition muzzle-loading firearm, having the battery removed and disconnected from the firearm.
- (h) "Vehicle" has the meaning given in s. 340.01 (74), but includes a snowmobile, as defined in s. 340.01 (58a), an all-terrain vehicle, as defined in s. 340.01 (2g), and an electric personal assistive mobility device, as defined in s. 340.01 (15pm), except that for purposes of subs. (4) (c) and (cg) and (4m) "vehicle" has the meaning given for "motor vehicle" in s. 29.001 (57).
- (2) Prohibitions; Motorboats and Vehicles; Highway and Roadways.
- (a) Except as provided in sub. (4), no person may place, possess, or transport a firearm, bow, or crossbow in or on a motorboat with the motor running, unless one of the following applies:
- 1. The firearm is unloaded or is a handgun.



2. The bow does not have an arrow nocked.

3. The crossbow is not cocked or is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case.

(c) Except as provided in sub. (4), no person may load a firearm, other than a handgun, in a vehicle or discharge a firearm or shoot a bolt or an arrow from a bow or crossbow in or from a vehicle. 2021 a. 238 s. [44](#).

### From the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources [Questions on Gun Laws](#).

The new change made under the concealed carry legislation that took effect on Nov. 1, 2011, was the elimination of the requirement to unload or case a **handgun** before it is placed, possessed or transported in or on a vehicle, boat, snowmobile or ATV. Handguns can also be loaded while inside or on a vehicle.

More recent legislation has relaxed the laws for transporting other types of firearms, but there is a difference between the laws for handguns and other types of firearms. Effective Nov. 19, 2011, long guns, such as rifles, shotguns and muzzleloaders, will no longer have to be in a case in order to place them in or on a vehicle, or to transport them **unloaded** in or on a vehicle. A loaded firearm, other than a handgun, can only be placed or possessed on the top or exterior of a vehicle which is **stationary**. Additionally, it is important to be aware that unlike handguns, it remains illegal to actually load any long guns (rifles, shotguns & muzzleloaders) while the firearm or person loading it is still in the vehicle. All long guns must be outside a motorized vehicle before a person may load the firearm. Once loaded, a long gun can be set down on a stationary vehicle, but must be unloaded before the firearm is placed inside or transported in or on the vehicle. Long guns must also be unloaded before they may be placed, possessed or transported in a motor boat with the motor running.

## [Wyoming](#)

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**Note:** Handgunlaw.us can find no laws/regulations on keeping a long gun in a vehicle in Wyoming. From all Handgunlaw.us reads long guns can be in the vehicle either in a visible, in a gun rack or in a case. Handgunlaw.us can find no Statute/Administrative Rule/Hunting Regulations that states it can't be loaded. Wyoming law does not define "Loaded." In most other states the definition of Unloaded means no round in the firearm or attached magazines.

## Updates to this Document

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**11/15/2022** – All Quoted Law Sections Up to Date With Their State Statutes Updated as of 11/2022.

**1/1/2023** – Alabama Entry Updated.

**7/1/2023** – All Links Checked.

**8/1/2023** – North Dakota Entry Updated.

**9/2/2023** – Nebraska Entry Updated.

**10/15/2023** – All Links Checked.