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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS

Introduced By: Senators McKenney, Gu, Murray, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-47-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons" is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-47-5. Possession of firearms by certain persons prohibited.**

4 (a) No person shall purchase, own, carry, transport, or have in his or her possession any
5 firearm if that person:

6 (1) Has been convicted in this state or elsewhere of a crime of violence;

7 (2) Is a fugitive from justice;

8 (3) Has, in this state or elsewhere, entered a plea of nolo contendere to or been convicted
9 of an offense punishable as a felony under § 12-29-5; or

10 (4) Has, in this state or elsewhere, entered a plea of nolo contendere to or been convicted
11 of any of the following offenses punishable as a misdemeanor under § 12-29-5:

12 (i) Simple assault (§ 11-5-3);

13 (ii) Cyberstalking and cyberharassment (§ 11-52-4.2);

14 (iii) Violation of a protective order (as set forth in § 12-29-2(a)(10); or

15 (iv) Disorderly conduct (§ 11-45-1).

16 (A) A disorderly conduct conviction shall result in prohibition under this section if and
17 only if the offense involves the use or attempted use of force or the threatened use of a dangerous
18 weapon.

19 (5) Has, in this state or elsewhere, entered a plea of nolo contendere to or otherwise been

1 [sentenced in accordance with § 12-19-38.](#)

2 (6) The provisions of this subsection shall apply to all persons who enter a plea of nolo
3 contendere to or have been convicted of any of the offenses specified in subsections (a)(3) [through](#)
4 [\(a\)\(5\)](#) of this section, unless and until that person's matter has been expunged, or upon the
5 completion of the sentence of a one-year filing, or the end of a one-year probationary period that
6 no longer constitutes a conviction pursuant to § 12-18-3.

7 (b) No person shall purchase, carry, transport, or have in his or her possession any firearm
8 if that person is subject to an order issued pursuant to chapter 15 of title 15, chapter 8.1 of title 8,
9 or an equivalent order in this state or elsewhere, which order was issued after the person restrained
10 has received notice of the proceedings and had an opportunity to be heard.

11 (c) No person who is in community confinement pursuant to the provisions of § 42-56-
12 20.2, or who is otherwise subject to electronic surveillance or monitoring devices as a condition of
13 parole, shall purchase, carry, transport, or have in his or her possession any firearm. This subsection
14 shall not apply to any person who has not been convicted of (or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere
15 to) a crime of violence in a court of competent jurisdiction.

16 (d) Every person violating the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished
17 by imprisonment for not less than two (2) nor more than ten (10) years; and for penalties provided
18 in this section he or she shall not be afforded the benefit of suspension or deferment of sentence
19 nor of probation.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would preclude an individual who has pled nolo contendere or been convicted of
2 a misdemeanor offense, and sentenced in accordance with the hate crime sentencing enhancement
3 act for such misdemeanor, from purchasing, owning, carrying, transporting or having in his or her
4 possession any firearm.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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