

SENATE BILL 7020

By Bailey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38;  
Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13; Title 49; Chapter 142  
of the Public Acts of 2023 and Chapter 149 of the  
Public Acts of 2023, relative to firearms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1309(e)(1), is amended by designating the current language as subdivision (e)(1)(A) and adding the following subdivision (e)(1)(B):

(B) Active duty and retired members of the armed forces of the United States possessing or carrying a handgun in any public school building or bus, on any public school campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field, or any other property owned, operated, or while in use by any public board of education, school, college or university board of trustees, regents or directors for the administration of any public educational institution, unless the person is otherwise prohibited from possessing or carrying a handgun by state or federal law;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1309(e)(4), is amended by designating the current language as subdivision (e)(4)(A) and adding the following subdivision (e)(4)(B):

(B) Officers of the state, or of any county, city, or town, charged with the enforcement of the laws of this state, whether on-duty or off-duty, possessing or carrying a handgun, or retired law enforcement officers possessing or carrying a handgun who are authorized to carry the handgun pursuant to §§ 38-8-116 and 39-17-1315, while in any public school building or bus, on any public school campus, grounds, recreation

area, athletic field, or any other property owned, operated, or while in use by any public board of education, school, college or university board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public educational institution;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1309, is amended by deleting subdivision (e)(8) and substituting:

(8)

(A) Persons possessing or carrying a handgun, who are authorized to carry the handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351, while in any public school building or bus, on any public school campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field, or any other property owned, operated, or while in use by any public board of education, school, college or university board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public educational institution.

(B) Subdivision (e)(8)(A) does not apply if the enhanced handgun carry permit holder:

(i) Is a student at a public or private pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (pre-K-12) school;

(ii) Is an employee of the public school, college, or university board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public educational institution at the following times and in the following locations:

(a) In meetings regarding disciplinary matters;

(b) In meetings regarding tenure issues; and

(c) A hospital, or an office where medical or mental health services are the primary services provided.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1309, is amended by deleting subdivisions (e)(10) and (e)(11).

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1309, is amended by deleting subdivision (e)(12)(B).

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1309, is amended by deleting subdivision (e)(13)(B).

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1350, is amended by deleting subdivision (c)(1) and substituting:

(1) Who is not engaged in the actual discharge of official duties as a law enforcement officer and carries a firearm onto private school grounds or inside a private school building during regular school hours unless the officer immediately informs the principal that the officer will be present on the private school grounds or inside the private school building and in possession of a firearm. If the principal is unavailable, the notice may be given to an appropriate administrative staff person in the principal's office;

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-815, is amended by deleting the section.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-816, is amended by deleting the section.

SECTION 10. Section 1 of Chapter 149 of the Public Acts of 2023, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1305(d)(1)(F), is amended by deleting "§ 39-17-1309(e)(11)(B)," and ", or § 49-6-816(f)(1) and (i)".

SECTION 12. This act takes effect October 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.