

1 AN ACT relating to firearms and declaring an emergency.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 237 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *As used in this chapter:*

6 *(1) (a) "Assault weapon" means:*

7 *1. A semiautomatic rifle that has an ability to accept a detachable*
8 *magazine and has at least one (1) of the following characteristics:*

9 *a. A folding or telescoping stock;*

10 *b. A pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of*
11 *the weapon;*

12 *c. A second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the*
13 *non-trigger hand;*

14 *d. A bayonet mount;*

15 *e. A flash suppressor, muzzle break, muzzle compensator, or*
16 *threaded barrel designed to accommodate a flash suppressor,*
17 *muzzle break, or muzzle compensator; or*

18 *f. A grenade launcher;*

19 *2. A semiautomatic shotgun that has at least one (1) of the following*
20 *characteristics:*

21 *a. A folding or telescoping stock;*

22 *b. A second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the*
23 *non-trigger hand;*

24 *c. A fixed magazine capacity in excess of seven (7) rounds; or*

25 *d. An ability to accept a detachable magazine;*

26 *3. A semiautomatic pistol that has an ability to accept a detachable*
27 *magazine and has at least one (1) of the following characteristics:*

- 1 a. A folding or telescoping stock;
- 2 b. A second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the
- 3 non-trigger hand;
- 4 c. Capacity to accept an ammunition magazine that attaches to the
- 5 pistol outside of the pistol grip;
- 6 d. A threaded barrel capable of accepting a barrel extender, flash
- 7 suppressor, forward handgrip, or silencer;
- 8 e. A shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles,
- 9 the barrel and that permits the shooter to hold the firearm with
- 10 the non-trigger hand without being burned; or
- 11 f. A manufactured weight of fifty (50) ounces or more when the
- 12 pistol is unloaded;
- 13 4. A semiautomatic version of an automatic rifle, shotgun, or firearm; or
- 14 5. A revolving cylinder shotgun.
- 15 (b) "Assault weapon" does not include:
- 16 1. Any rifle, shotgun, or pistol that
- 17 a. Is manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action;
- 18 b. Has been rendered permanently inoperable; or
- 19 c. Is an antique firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. sec. 921;
- 20 2. A semiautomatic rifle that cannot accept a detachable magazine that
- 21 holds more than five (5) rounds of ammunition; or
- 22 3. A semiautomatic shotgun that cannot hold more than five (5) rounds
- 23 of ammunition in a fixed or detachable magazine;
- 24 (2) "Large capacity ammunition feeding device" means a magazine, belt, drum, feed
- 25 strip, or similar device that has a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or
- 26 converted to accept, more than seven (7) rounds of ammunition, but does not
- 27 include an attached tubular device designed to accept, and capable of operating

1 only with, .22 caliber rimfire ammunition or a feeding device that is a curio or
2 relic. To qualify as a curio or relic feeding device under this subsection, it must
3 be a feeding device that:

4 (a) Was manufactured at least fifty (50) years prior to the current date, not
5 including replicas thereof;

6 (b) Is only capable of being used exclusively in a firearm, rifle, or shotgun that
7 was manufactured at least fifty (50) years prior to the current date, not
8 including replicas thereof;

9 (c) Is possessed by an individual who is not prohibited by state or federal law
10 from possessing a firearm; and

11 (d) Is registered with the Department of Kentucky State Police pursuant to
12 Section 5 of this Act; and

13 (3) "Seller of ammunition" means any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or
14 company that engages in the business of purchasing, selling, or keeping
15 ammunition.

16 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 237 IS CREATED TO
17 READ AS FOLLOWS:

18 (1) In addition to any other requirement of state or federal law, all sales, exchanges,
19 or transfers of firearms shall be conducted in accordance with this section unless
20 the sale, exchange, or transfer is:

21 (a) Conducted by a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed
22 dealer, as those terms are defined in 18 U.S.C. secs. 921 and 922, when the
23 sale, exchange, or transfer is conducted pursuant to that person's federal
24 firearms license; or

25 (b) Between spouses, parents, children, and stepchildren in the same immediate
26 family.

27 (2) Before any sale, exchange, or transfer pursuant to this section, a national instant

1 criminal background check shall be completed by a dealer who consents to
2 conduct a check, and upon completion of the background check, the dealer shall
3 complete a form developed by the Department of Kentucky State Police, and
4 available for download through the department's website, that identifies and
5 confirms that the check was performed.

6 (3) In addition to any sales log-keeping requirements created under Section 5 of this
7 Act or any other requirement of state or federal law, all dealers shall maintain a
8 record of transactions and background checks conducted pursuant to this section,
9 and the records shall be maintained on the premises identified and described in
10 the dealer's license, and shall be available at all reasonable hours for inspection
11 by any peace officer acting within the scope of his or her duties.

12 (4) A dealer may require that any background check conducted pursuant to this
13 section be subject to a fee not to exceed ten dollars (\$10) per transaction.

14 (5) Any record produced pursuant to this section and any transmission of the record
15 to any government agency shall not be considered a public record for purposes of
16 the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884.

17 (6) Any person who knowingly violates this section shall be guilty of a Class A
18 misdemeanor.

19 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 237 IS CREATED TO
20 READ AS FOLLOWS:

21 (1) (a) Any owner or other person lawfully in possession of a firearm who suffers
22 the loss or theft of the firearm or any seller of ammunition who suffers a
23 loss or theft of ammunition shall report the facts and circumstances of the
24 loss or theft to an appropriate law enforcement agency within twenty-four
25 (24) hours of the discovery of the loss or theft.

26 (b) The report required by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall contain, if
27 known, the caliber, make, model, manufacturer's name and serial number,

1 if any, and any other distinguishing number or identification mark on the
2 firearm, or the make, type, and caliber of the ammunition.

3 (c) The law enforcement agency shall enter the reported information into the
4 National Crime Information Center database.

5 (2) Any person who fails to make a report of a loss or theft as required by this section
6 shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

7 ➔SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 237 IS CREATED TO
8 READ AS FOLLOWS:

9 (1) As used in this section, "safe storage depository" means a safe or other secure
10 container which, when locked, is incapable of being opened without the key,
11 combination, or other unlocking mechanism and is capable of preventing an
12 unauthorized person from obtaining access to and possession of its contents.

13 (2) A person who owns or is a custodian of a firearm shall not store or otherwise
14 leave the firearm out of his or her immediate possession or control without
15 having first securely locked the firearm in an appropriate safe storage depository
16 or rendered it incapable of being fired by use of a gun-locking device appropriate
17 to that weapon.

18 (3) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

19 ➔SECTION 5. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 237 IS CREATED TO
20 READ AS FOLLOWS:

21 (1) (a) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall promulgate an
22 administrative regulation for the licensure of persons to possess a handgun
23 in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The administrative regulation shall
24 prohibit the possession of a handgun by a person in Kentucky unless the
25 person holds a license or falls within an exemption that the Department of
26 Kentucky State Police may create in the administrative regulation. The
27 license shall be available to persons who are at least twenty-one (21) years

1 old or have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the
2 United States, meet the eligibility criteria established by the department, and
3 are not otherwise prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a
4 handgun.

5 (b) The Department of Kentucky State Police may establish a fee for
6 applications for a license sufficient to cover the costs of administering the
7 program.

8 (c) Licenses issued under this subsection shall be effective for no longer than
9 five (5) years.

10 (d) Persons receiving a license under this subsection shall be given the option
11 of whether the license shall be public or private. If the license is private, the
12 record shall be available to all state law enforcement agencies but shall not
13 be a public record under the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to
14 61.884.

15 (e) Any person who possesses a handgun in violation of the administrative
16 regulations promulgated under this subsection shall be guilty of a Class A
17 misdemeanor.

18 (2) (a) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall promulgate an
19 administrative regulation for the registration of handguns in the
20 Commonwealth of Kentucky. The administrative regulation shall prohibit
21 the possession of an unregistered handgun by a person in Kentucky unless
22 the handgun falls within an exemption that the Department of Kentucky
23 State Police may create in the administrative regulation.

24 (b) The administrative regulation shall require that the handgun's registration
25 information be updated upon any transfer of ownership of the handgun.

26 (c) The Department of Kentucky State Police may establish a fee for
27 applications for a license sufficient to cover the costs of administering the

1 program.

2 (d) Persons registering a handgun under this subsection shall be given the
3 option of deciding whether the registration shall be public or private. If the
4 registration is private, the record shall not be a public record under the
5 Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884.

6 (e) Any person who possesses an unregistered handgun in violation of the
7 administrative regulation promulgated under this subsection shall be guilty
8 of a Class A misdemeanor.

9 (3) (a) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall promulgate an
10 administrative regulation for the licensure of persons to possess an assault
11 weapon or a large capacity ammunition feeding device in the
12 Commonwealth of Kentucky. The administrative regulation shall prohibit
13 the possession of an assault weapon or a large capacity ammunition feeding
14 device by a person in Kentucky unless the person holds a license or falls
15 within an exemption that the Department of Kentucky State Police may
16 create in the administrative regulation. The license shall be available to
17 persons who are at least twenty-one (21) years old or have been honorably
18 discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States, meet the eligibility
19 criteria established by the department, and are not otherwise prohibited by
20 state or federal law from possessing an assault weapon or a large capacity
21 ammunition feeding device.

22 (b) The Department of Kentucky State Police may establish a fee for
23 applications for a license sufficient to cover the costs of administering the
24 program.

25 (c) Licenses issued under this subsection shall be effective for no longer than
26 five (5) years.

27 (d) Persons receiving a license under this subsection shall be given the option

1 of deciding whether the license shall be public or private. If the license is
2 private, the record shall not be a public record under the Kentucky Open
3 Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884.

4 (e) Any person who possesses an assault weapon or a large capacity
5 ammunition feeding device in violation of the administrative regulation
6 promulgated under this subsection shall be guilty of a Class D felony.

7 (4) (a) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall promulgate an
8 administrative regulation for the registration of assault weapons or large
9 capacity ammunition feeding devices in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
10 The administrative regulation shall prohibit the possession of an
11 unregistered assault weapon or a large capacity ammunition feeding device
12 by a person in Kentucky unless the assault weapon or large capacity
13 ammunition feeding device falls within an exemption that the Department
14 of Kentucky State Police may create in the administrative regulation.

15 (b) The administrative regulation shall require that the assault weapon or large
16 capacity ammunition feeding device registration information be updated
17 upon any transfer of ownership of the assault weapon or large capacity
18 ammunition feeding device.

19 (c) The Department of Kentucky State Police may establish a fee for
20 applications for a license sufficient to cover the costs of administering the
21 program.

22 (d) Persons registering an assault weapon or large capacity ammunition
23 feeding device under this subsection shall be given the option of deciding
24 whether the registration shall be public or private. If the registration is
25 private, the record shall not be a public record under the Kentucky Open
26 Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884.

27 (e) Any person who possesses an unregistered assault weapon or large capacity

1 ammunition feeding device in violation of the administrative regulation
2 promulgated under this subsection shall be guilty of a Class D felony.

3 (5) (a) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall promulgate an
4 administrative regulation establishing a sales log-keeping requirement for
5 firearms dealers and sellers of ammunition operating in Kentucky that sell
6 handguns, ammunition for handguns, assault weapons, ammunition for
7 assault weapons, large capacity ammunition feeding devices, or
8 ammunition for large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

9 (b) 1. The administrative regulation may require that the log be kept in
10 electronic format and transmitted to the department at regular
11 intervals.

12 2. The administrative regulation may require the Department of
13 Kentucky State Police or the dealer or seller to require the purchaser
14 to produce a government-issued photo identification, which the dealer
15 or seller shall record in the log.

16 (c) By July 1, 2025, the log shall be required to operate in real time and shall
17 query the records of the department prior to the completion of a sale,
18 including sales, exchanges, or transfers pursuant to Section 2 of this Act, to
19 determine whether the purchaser has a current, valid license to possess that
20 type of firearm or a license for the type of firearm for which the
21 ammunition is being purchased.

22 (d) Records kept in the sales log shall be open to inspection by any peace officer
23 acting on official business.

24 (e) Any firearms dealer or seller of ammunition who violates the administrative
25 regulation promulgated under this subsection shall be guilty of a Class B
26 misdemeanor.

27 ➔SECTION 6. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 527 IS CREATED TO

1 READ AS FOLLOWS:

2 (1) A person is guilty of criminal purchase or transfer of a weapon when knowing

3 that:

4 (a) He or she is prohibited by law from possessing a firearm because of a prior
5 criminal conviction or is otherwise ineligible to lawfully possess a firearm
6 under state or federal law, the person purchases a firearm from another
7 person;

8 (b) It is unlawful for another person to possess a firearm, he or she purchases a
9 firearm for, on behalf of, or for the use of that other person; or

10 (c) Another person is prohibited by law from possessing a firearm because of a
11 prior criminal conviction or is otherwise ineligible to lawfully possess a
12 firearm under state or federal law, a person transfers a firearm to that other
13 person.

14 (2) Criminal purchase or transfer of a weapon is a Class D felony.

15 ➔Section 7. KRS 395.250 is amended to read as follows:

16 It shall be the duty of a personal representative of a decedent to return an inventory in
17 duplicate within two (2) months from the time of qualifying as the personal
18 representative~~[such]~~, to the clerk's office of the court in which he or she qualified, the
19 original of which shall be recorded by the clerk and the duplicate shall be mailed by the
20 clerk to the secretary of revenue. The inventory shall include a particularized
21 description of every firearm that is part of the estate, and if a firearm is included, a
22 copy of the inventory shall be provided by the clerk to the Department of Kentucky
23 State Police. Copies from the record of the inventory or appraisal shall be prima
24 facie evidence for or against the personal~~[such]~~ representative.

25 ➔Section 8. KRS 403.735 is amended to read as follows:

26 (1) Prior to or at a hearing on a petition for an order of protection:

27 (a) The court may obtain the respondent's Kentucky criminal and protective order

1 history and utilize that information to assess what relief and which sanctions
2 may protect against danger to the petitioner or other person for whom
3 protection is being sought, with the information so obtained being provided to
4 the parties in accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure; and

5 (b) If the petitioner or respondent is a minor, the court shall inquire whether the
6 parties attend school in the same school system to assist the court in imposing
7 conditions in the order that have the least disruption in the administration of
8 education to the parties while providing appropriate protection to the
9 petitioner.

10 (2) (a) If the adverse party is not present at the hearing ordered pursuant to KRS
11 403.730 and has not been served, a previously issued emergency protective
12 order shall remain in place, and the court shall direct the issuance of a new
13 summons for a hearing set not more than fourteen (14) days in the future. If
14 service has not been made on the adverse party before that hearing or a
15 subsequent hearing, the emergency protective order shall remain in place, and
16 the court shall continue the hearing and issue a new summons with a new date
17 and time for the hearing to occur, which shall be within fourteen (14) days of
18 the originally scheduled date for the continued hearing. The court shall repeat
19 the process of continuing the hearing and reissuing a new summons until the
20 adverse party is served in advance of the scheduled hearing. If service has not
21 been made on the respondent at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the
22 scheduled hearing, the court may continue the hearing no more than fourteen
23 (14) days in the future. In issuing the summons, the court shall simultaneously
24 transmit a copy of the summons or notice of its issuance and provisions to the
25 petitioner.

26 (b) The provisions of this section permitting the continuance of an emergency
27 protective order shall be limited to six (6) months from the issuance of the

1 emergency protective order. If the respondent has not been served within that
2 period, the order shall be rescinded without prejudice. Prior to the expiration
3 of the emergency protective order, the court shall provide notice to the
4 petitioner stating that, if the petitioner does not file a new petition, the order
5 shall be rescinded without prejudice.

6 (c) In issuing an order of protection or in considering any requested
7 modifications to or violations of an existing order of protection, the court
8 shall make a determination of whether there is a substantial risk that the
9 respondent may use or threaten to use a firearm unlawfully against the
10 person for whose protection the order of protection is issued. If the court
11 finds that a substantial risk exists, the court shall order that the respondent
12 be prohibited from possessing a firearm and shall order him or her to
13 surrender any firearms owned or possessed by the respondent to the sheriff
14 of the county where the firearm is located. The sheriff shall impound the
15 weapon until the:

16 1. Prohibition is lifted;

17 2. Order expires; or

18 3. Respondent directs the transfer of the weapon to a person lawfully
19 allowed to possess the firearm.

20 (d) Upon the surrender of all firearms by the respondent in compliance with the
21 court's order under paragraph (c) of this subsection, the sheriff taking
22 possession of the firearms shall issue a receipt identifying the firearms that
23 have been surrendered and provide a copy of the receipt to the respondent.
24 The sheriff shall file the original receipt with the court and shall ensure that
25 the sheriff's office retains a copy of the receipt.

26 ➔Section 9. KRS 504.030 is amended to read as follows:

27 (1) When a defendant is found not guilty by reason of insanity, the court shall:

(a) Conduct an involuntary hospitalization proceeding under KRS Chapter 202A or 202B; ***and***

(b) Order in open court that the defendant be prohibited from possessing a firearm and shall also order him or her to surrender any firearms owned or possessed by the defendant to the sheriff of the county where the firearm is located. The sheriff shall impound the weapon until the:

1. Order expires or is lifted;

2. Conviction is altered, amended, or vacated;

3. Defendant is granted a pardon; or

4. Respondent directs the transfer of the weapon to a person lawfully allowed to possess the firearm.

Upon the surrender of all firearms by the defendant in compliance with the court's order under paragraph (b) of this subsection, the sheriff taking possession of the firearms shall issue a receipt identifying the firearms that have been surrendered and provide a copy of the receipt to the defendant. The sheriff shall file the original receipt with the court and shall ensure that the sheriff's office retains a copy of the receipt.

(2) To facilitate the procedure established in subsection (1) of this section, the court may order the detention of the defendant for a period of ten (10) days to allow for proceedings to be initiated against the defendant for examination and possible detention pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 202A or 202B.

➔Section 10. KRS 237.104 is amended to read as follows:

(1) No person, unit of government, or governmental organization shall, during a period of disaster or emergency as specified in KRS Chapter 39A or at any other time, have the right to revoke, suspend, limit the use of, or otherwise impair the validity of the right of any person to purchase, transfer, loan, own, possess, carry, or use a firearm, firearm part, ammunition, ammunition component, or any deadly weapon

1 or dangerous instrument.

2 (2) No person, unit of government, or governmental organization shall, during a period
3 of disaster or emergency as specified in KRS Chapter 39A or at any other time,
4 take, seize, confiscate, or impound a firearm, firearm part, ammunition, ammunition
5 component, or any deadly weapon or dangerous instrument from any person.

6 (3) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the taking of an item specified in
7 subsection (1) or (2) of this section from a person who is:

8 (a) Forbidden to possess a firearm pursuant to KRS 527.040 or Section 8, 9, or
9 15 of this Act;

10 (b) Forbidden to possess a firearm pursuant to federal law;

11 (c) Violating KRS 527.020;

12 (d) In possession of a stolen firearm;

13 (e) Using a firearm in the commission of a separate criminal offense; or

14 (f) Using a firearm or other weapon in the commission of an offense under KRS
15 Chapter 150.

16 ➔Section 11. KRS 506.080 is amended to read as follows:

17 (1) A person is guilty of criminal facilitation when, acting with knowledge that another
18 person is committing or intends to commit a crime, he or she engages in conduct
19 which knowingly provides such person with means or opportunity for the
20 commission of the crime and which in fact aids such person to commit the crime,
21 including making available, selling, exchanging, giving, or disposing of a
22 firearm.

23 (2) Criminal facilitation is a:

24 (a) Class D felony when the crime facilitated is a Class A or Class B felony or
25 capital offense;

26 (b) Class A misdemeanor when the crime facilitated is a Class C or Class D
27 felony;

1 (c) Class B misdemeanor when the crime facilitated is a misdemeanor.

2 ➔Section 12. KRS 508.020 is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) A person is guilty of assault in the second degree when:

4 (a) He or she intentionally causes serious physical injury to another person;~~{or}~~

5 (b) He or she intentionally causes physical injury to another person by means of a
6 deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument;~~{or}~~

7 (c) He or she wantonly causes serious physical injury to another person by means
8 of a deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument; or

9 (d) He or she wantonly causes physical injury to a minor by intentionally
10 discharging a firearm.

11 (2) Assault in the second degree is a Class C felony.

12 ➔Section 13. KRS 527.040 is amended to read as follows:

13 (1) A person is guilty of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon when he or she
14 possesses, manufactures, or transports a firearm when he or she has been convicted
15 of a felony, as defined by the laws of the jurisdiction in which he or she was
16 convicted, in any state or federal court and has not:

17 (a) Been granted a full pardon by the Governor or by the President of the United
18 States; or

19 (b) Been granted relief by the United States Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to
20 the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968, as amended.

21 (2) (a) Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon is a Class D felony unless the
22 firearm possessed is a handgun in which case it is a Class C felony.

23 (b) If a felon is convicted of a criminal offense other than possession of a firearm
24 by a convicted felon, and he or she possessed a firearm in commission of that
25 offense, then the felon shall be penalized for violating this section one (1)
26 class more severely if it is a second or subsequent violation of this section.

27 (c) Sentences for violation of this section shall be served consecutively to any

1 *other felony sentence imposed on the offender.*

2 (3) The provisions of this section shall apply to any youthful offender convicted of a
3 felony offense under the laws of this Commonwealth. The exceptions contained in
4 KRS 527.100 prohibiting possession of a handgun by a minor shall not apply to this
5 section.

6 (4) The provisions of this section with respect to handguns, shall apply only to persons
7 convicted after January 1, 1975, and with respect to other firearms, to persons
8 convicted after July 15, 1994.

9 ➔Section 14. KRS 527.070 is amended to read as follows:

10 (1) A person is guilty of unlawful possession of a weapon on school property when he
11 *or she* knowingly deposits, possesses, or carries, whether openly or concealed, for
12 purposes other than instructional or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, or the
13 purposes permitted in subsection (3) of this section, any firearm or other deadly
14 weapon, destructive device, or booby trap device in any *postsecondary education*
15 *facility*, public or private school building or bus, on any public or private school
16 campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field, or any other property owned, used,
17 or operated by any *institution of postsecondary education*, board of education,
18 school, board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public
19 or private educational institution.~~[The provisions of this section shall not apply to~~
20 ~~institutions of postsecondary or higher education.]~~

21 (2) Each chief administrator of a public or private school shall display about the school
22 in prominent locations, including~~[,]~~ but not limited to~~[,]~~ sports arenas, gymnasiums,
23 stadiums, and cafeterias, a sign at least six (6) inches high and fourteen (14) inches
24 wide stating:

25 UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON ON SCHOOL
26 PROPERTY IN KENTUCKY IS A FELONY PUNISHABLE
27 BY A MAXIMUM OF FIVE (5) YEARS IN PRISON AND A

1 TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR (\$10,000) FINE.

2 Failure to post the sign shall not relieve any person of liability under this section.

3 (3) The provisions of this section prohibiting the unlawful possession of a weapon on
4 school property shall not apply to:

5 (a) An adult who is not a pupil of any secondary school and who possesses a
6 firearm, if the firearm is contained within a vehicle operated by the adult and
7 is not removed from the vehicle, except for a purpose permitted herein, or
8 brandished by the adult, or by any other person acting with expressed or
9 implied consent of the adult, while the vehicle is on school property;

10 (b) Any pupils who are members of the reserve officers training corps or pupils
11 enrolled in a course of instruction or members of a school club or team, to the
12 extent they are required to carry arms or weapons in the discharge of their
13 official class or team duties;

14 (c) Any peace officer or police officer authorized to carry a concealed weapon
15 pursuant to KRS 527.020;

16 (d) Persons employed by the Armed Forces of the United States or members of
17 the National Guard or militia when required in the discharge of their official
18 duties to carry arms or weapons;

19 (e) Civil officers of the United States in the discharge of their official duties.
20 Nothing in this section shall be construed as to allow any person to carry a
21 concealed weapon into a public or private elementary or secondary school
22 building;

23 (f) Any other persons, including, but not limited to, exhibitors of historical
24 displays, who have been authorized to carry a firearm by the board of
25 education or board of trustees of the public or private institution;

26 (g) A person hunting during the lawful hunting season on lands owned by any
27 public or private educational institution and designated as open to hunting by

1 the board of education or board of trustees of the educational institution;

2 (h) A person possessing unloaded hunting weapons while traversing the grounds
3 of any public or private educational institution for the purpose of gaining
4 access to public or private lands open to hunting with the intent to hunt on the
5 public or private lands, unless the lands of the educational institution are
6 posted prohibiting the entry; or

7 (i) A person possessing guns or knives when conducting or attending a "gun and
8 knife show" when the program has been approved by the board of education
9 or board of trustees of the educational institution.

10 (4) Unlawful possession of a weapon on school property is a Class D felony.

11 ➔Section 15. KRS 532.030 is amended to read as follows:

12 (1) When a person is convicted of a capital offense, he or she shall have his or her
13 punishment fixed at death, or at a term of imprisonment for life without benefit of
14 probation or parole, or at a term of imprisonment for life without benefit of
15 probation or parole until he or she has served a minimum of twenty-five (25) years
16 of his or her sentence, or to a sentence of life, or to a term of not less than twenty
17 (20) years nor more than fifty (50) years.

18 (2) When a person is convicted of a Class A felony, he or she shall have his
19 punishment fixed at imprisonment in accordance with KRS 532.060.

20 (3) When a person is convicted of an offense other than a capital offense or Class A
21 felony, he or she shall have his or her punishment fixed at:

22 (a) A term of imprisonment authorized by this chapter; or

23 (b) A fine authorized by KRS Chapter 534; or

24 (c) Both imprisonment and a fine unless precluded by the provisions of KRS
25 Chapter 534.

26 (4) (a) When a person is convicted of any capital offense, felony offense, or offense
27 where the defendant is found guilty but mentally ill, the judge pronouncing

1 sentence shall order in open court that the defendant be prohibited from
2 possessing a firearm and shall order him or her to surrender any firearms
3 owned or possessed by the defendant to the sheriff of the county where the
4 firearm is located, who shall impound the weapon until the prohibition is
5 lifted, the conviction is altered, amended, or vacated, the defendant is
6 granted a pardon, or the respondent directs the transfer of the weapon to a
7 person lawfully allowed to possess the firearm.

8 (b) Upon the surrender of all firearms by the defendant in compliance with the
9 court's order under this subsection, the sheriff taking possession of the
10 firearms shall issue a receipt identifying the firearms that have been
11 surrendered and provide a copy of the receipt to the defendant. The sheriff
12 shall file the original receipt with the court and shall ensure that the
13 sheriff's office retains a copy of the receipt.

14 (5) In all cases in which the death penalty may be authorized the judge shall instruct the
15 jury in accordance with subsection (1) of this section. The instructions shall state,
16 subject to the aggravating and mitigating limitations and requirements of KRS
17 532.025, that the jury may recommend upon a conviction for a capital offense a
18 sentence of death, or at a term of imprisonment for life without benefit of probation
19 or parole, or a term of imprisonment for life without benefit of probation or parole
20 until the defendant has served a minimum of twenty-five (25) years of his or her
21 sentence, or a sentence of life, or to a term of not less than twenty (20) years nor
22 more than fifty (50) years.

23 ➔Section 16. KRS 532.025 is amended to read as follows:

24 (1) (a) Upon conviction of a defendant in cases where the death penalty may be
25 imposed, a hearing shall be conducted. In such hearing, the judge shall hear
26 additional evidence in extenuation, mitigation, and aggravation of
27 punishment, including the record of any prior criminal convictions and pleas

1 of guilty or pleas of nolo contendere of the defendant, or the absence of any
2 prior conviction and pleas; provided, however, that only such evidence in
3 aggravation as the state has made known to the defendant prior to his or her
4 trial shall be admissible. Subject to the Kentucky Rules of Evidence, juvenile
5 court records of adjudications of guilt of a child for an offense that would be a
6 felony if committed by an adult shall be admissible in court at any time the
7 child is tried as an adult, or after the child becomes an adult, at any
8 subsequent criminal trial relating to that same person. Juvenile court records
9 made available pursuant to this section may be used for impeachment
10 purposes during a criminal trial and may be used during the sentencing phase
11 of a criminal trial; however, the fact that a juvenile has been adjudicated
12 delinquent of an offense that would be a felony if the child had been an adult
13 shall not be used in finding the child to be a persistent felony offender based
14 upon that adjudication. Release of the child's treatment, medical, mental, or
15 psychological records is prohibited unless presented as evidence in Circuit
16 Court. Release of any records resulting from the child's prior abuse and
17 neglect under Title IV-E or IV-B of the Federal Social Security Act is also
18 prohibited. The judge shall also hear argument by the defendant or his or her
19 counsel and the prosecuting attorney, as provided by law, regarding the
20 punishment to be imposed. The prosecuting attorney shall open and the
21 defendant shall conclude the argument. In cases in which the death penalty
22 may be imposed, the judge when sitting without a jury shall follow the
23 additional procedure provided in subsection (2) of this section. Upon the
24 conclusion of the evidence and arguments, the judge shall impose the sentence
25 or shall recess the trial for the purpose of taking the sentence within the limits
26 prescribed by law. If the trial court is reversed on appeal because of error only
27 in the presentence hearing, the new trial which may be ordered shall apply

1 only to the issue of punishment.

2 (b) In all cases in which the death penalty may be imposed and which are tried by
3 a jury, upon a return of a verdict of guilty by the jury, the court shall resume
4 the trial and conduct a presentence hearing before the jury. Such hearing shall
5 be conducted in the same manner as presentence hearings conducted before
6 the judge as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection, including the record
7 of any prior criminal convictions and pleas of guilty or pleas of nolo
8 contendere of the defendant. Upon the conclusion of the evidence and
9 arguments, the judge shall give the jury appropriate instructions, and the jury
10 shall retire to determine whether any mitigating or aggravating circumstances,
11 as defined in subsection (2) of this section, exist and to recommend a sentence
12 for the defendant. Upon the findings of the jury, the judge shall fix a sentence
13 within the limits prescribed by law.

14 (2) In all cases of offenses for which the death penalty may be authorized, the judge
15 shall consider, or he or she shall include in ~~the~~^{this} instructions to the jury for it to
16 consider, any mitigating circumstances or aggravating circumstances otherwise
17 authorized by law and any of the following statutory aggravating or mitigating
18 circumstances which may be supported by the evidence:

19 (a) Aggravating circumstances:

- 20 1. The offense of murder or kidnapping was committed by a person with a
21 prior record of conviction for a capital offense, or the offense of murder
22 was committed by a person who has a substantial history of serious
23 assaultive criminal convictions;
- 24 2. The offense of murder or kidnapping was committed while the offender
25 was engaged in the commission of arson in the first degree, robbery in
26 the first degree, burglary in the first degree, rape in the first degree, or
27 sodomy in the first degree;

- 1 3. The offender by his or her act of murder, armed robbery, or kidnapping
2 knowingly created a great risk of death to more than one (1) person in a
3 public place by means of a weapon of mass destruction, weapon, or
4 other device which would normally be hazardous to the lives of more
5 than one (1) person;
- 6 4. The offender committed the offense of murder for himself, herself, or
7 another, for the purpose of receiving money or any other thing of
8 monetary value, or for other profit;
- 9 5. The offense of murder was committed by a person who was a prisoner
10 and the victim was a prison employee engaged at the time of the act in
11 the performance of his or her duties;
- 12 6. The offender's act or acts of killing were intentional and resulted in
13 multiple deaths;
- 14 7. The offender's act of killing was intentional and the victim was a state or
15 local public official or police officer, sheriff, or deputy sheriff engaged
16 at the time of the act in the lawful performance of his or her duties;
- 17 8. The offender murdered the victim when an emergency protective order
18 or a domestic violence order was in effect, or when any other order
19 designed to protect the victim from the offender, such as an order issued
20 as a condition of a bond, conditional release, probation, parole, or
21 pretrial diversion, was in effect; and
- 22 9. The offender's act of killing was intentional and resulted in the death of
23 a child under twelve (12) years old.
- 24 (b) Mitigating circumstances:
 - 25 1. The defendant has no significant history of prior criminal activity;
 - 26 2. The capital offense was committed while the defendant was under the
27 influence of extreme mental or emotional disturbance even though the

- 1 influence of extreme mental or emotional disturbance is not sufficient to
2 constitute a defense to the crime;
- 3 3. The victim was a participant in the defendant's criminal conduct or
4 consented to the criminal act;
- 5 4. The capital offense was committed under circumstances which the
6 defendant believed to provide a moral justification or extenuation for his
7 or her conduct even though the circumstances which the defendant
8 believed to provide a moral justification or extenuation for his or her
9 conduct are not sufficient to constitute a defense to the crime;
- 10 5. The defendant was an accomplice in a capital offense committed by
11 another person and his or her participation in the capital offense was
12 relatively minor;
- 13 6. The defendant acted under duress or under the domination of another
14 person even though the duress or the domination of another person is not
15 sufficient to constitute a defense to the crime;
- 16 7. At the time of the capital offense, the capacity of the defendant to
17 appreciate the criminality of his or her conduct to the requirements of
18 law was impaired as a result of mental illness or an intellectual disability
19 or intoxication even though the impairment of the capacity of the
20 defendant to appreciate the criminality of his or her conduct or to
21 conform the conduct to the requirements of law is insufficient to
22 constitute a defense to the crime; and
- 23 8. The youth of the defendant at the time of the crime.
- 24 (3) The instructions as determined by the trial judge to be warranted by the evidence or
25 as required by KRS 532.030(5)~~[(4)]~~ shall be given in charge and in writing to the
26 jury for its deliberation. The jury, if its verdict be a recommendation of death, or
27 imprisonment for life without benefit of probation or parole, or imprisonment for

1 life without benefit of probation or parole until the defendant has served a minimum
2 of twenty-five (25) years of his or her sentence, shall designate in writing, signed by
3 the foreman of the jury, the aggravating circumstance or circumstances which it
4 found beyond a reasonable doubt. In nonjury cases, the judge shall make such
5 designation. In all cases unless at least one (1) of the statutory aggravating
6 circumstances enumerated in subsection (2) of this section is so found, the death
7 penalty, or imprisonment for life without benefit of probation or parole, or the
8 sentence to imprisonment for life without benefit of probation or parole until the
9 defendant has served a minimum of twenty-five (25) years of his or her sentence,
10 shall not be imposed.

11 ➔Section 17. KRS 237.115 is amended to read as follows:

12 (1) Except as provided in KRS 527.020, nothing contained in KRS 237.109 or 237.110
13 shall be construed to limit, restrict, or prohibit in any manner~~[the right of a college,~~
14 ~~university, or any postsecondary education facility, including technical schools and~~
15 ~~community colleges, to control the possession of deadly weapons on any property~~
16 ~~owned or controlled by them or]~~ the right of a unit of state, city, county, urban-
17 county, or charter county government to prohibit the carrying of concealed deadly
18 weapons in that portion of a building actually owned, leased, or occupied by that
19 unit of government.

20 (2) Except as provided in KRS 527.020, the legislative body of a state, city, county, or
21 urban-county government may, by statute, administrative regulation, or ordinance,
22 prohibit or limit the carrying of concealed deadly weapons in that portion of a
23 building owned, leased, or controlled by that unit of government. That portion of a
24 building in which the carrying of concealed deadly weapons is prohibited or limited
25 shall be clearly identified by signs posted at the entrance to the restricted area. The
26 statute or ordinance shall exempt any building used for public housing by private
27 persons, highway rest areas, firing ranges, and private dwellings owned, leased, or

1 controlled by that unit of government from any restriction on the carrying or
2 possession of deadly weapons. The statute, administrative regulation, or ordinance
3 shall not specify any criminal penalty for its violation but may specify that persons
4 violating the statute or ordinance may be denied entrance to the building, ordered to
5 leave the building, and if employees of the unit of government, be subject to
6 employee disciplinary measures for violation of the provisions of the statute or
7 ordinance.~~[The provisions of this section shall not be deemed to be a violation of~~
8 ~~KRS 65.870 if the requirements of this section are followed.]~~ The provisions of this
9 section shall not apply to any other unit of government.

- 10 (3) Unless otherwise specifically provided by the Kentucky Revised Statutes or
11 applicable federal law, no criminal penalty shall attach to carrying a concealed
12 firearm or other deadly weapon at any location at which an unconcealed firearm or
13 other deadly weapon may be constitutionally carried.

14 ➔Section 18. KRS 65.1591 is amended to read as follows:

- 15 (1) As used in this section:

- 16 (a) "Peer support communication" means any oral or written communication
17 made in the course of, or application for, a peer support counseling session or
18 any communication by a peer support participant regarding the contents of a
19 peer support counseling session to another peer support specialist, staff
20 member of a peer support counseling program, or the supervisor of a peer
21 support specialist;
- 22 (b) "Peer support counseling program" means a program provided by a public
23 agency to provide counseling services from a peer support specialist to a
24 public safety employee;
- 25 (c) "Peer support counseling session" means any counseling formally provided
26 through a peer support counseling program between a peer support specialist
27 and one (1) or more public safety employees;

- 1 (d) "Peer support participant" means a public safety employee who receives
2 counseling services from a peer support specialist;
- 3 (e) "Peer support specialist" means a public safety employee designated by the
4 public agency to provide peer support counseling who has received training in
5 both peer support counseling and in providing emotional and moral support to
6 public safety employees who have been in or exposed to an emotionally
7 traumatic experience in the course of employment;
- 8 (f) "Public agency" means a city, county, urban-county government, charter
9 county government, consolidated local government, unified local
10 government, special district, local or regional public or quasi-public agency,
11 board, commission, department, or public corporation ~~has the same meaning~~
12 ~~as the entities listed in KRS 65.870 (1)}~~; and
- 13 (g) "Public safety employee" means an individual employed by a public agency
14 who:
- 15 1. Serves as a police officer as defined by KRS 15.420(2)(a)1.;
 - 16 2. Serves in a position that is primarily engaged in firefighting activities,
17 whether paid or unpaid;
 - 18 3. Serves as a certified telecommunicator as provided by KRS 15.560 to
19 15.565; or
 - 20 4. Is licensed to provide emergency medical services as provided by KRS
21 Chapter 311A.
- 22 (2) Any public agency may create and design a peer support counseling program to
23 provide support to public safety employees who have been in or exposed to an
24 emotionally traumatic experience in the course of employment.
- 25 (3) The content of any peer support communication shall remain confidential and shall
26 not be disclosed to any individual who was not party to the peer support counseling
27 session or peer support communication, except when the peer support

1 communication contains:

- 2 (a) An explicit threat of suicide by a participant in which the participant shares an
3 intent to die by suicide, a plan to carry out a suicide attempt, or discloses the
4 means by which the participant intends to carry out a suicide attempt. This
5 paragraph shall not apply to any peer support communication where the
6 participant solely shares that the participant is experiencing suicidal thoughts;
- 7 (b) An explicit threat by a participant of imminent and serious physical and
8 bodily harm or death to a clearly identified or reasonably identifiable victim;
- 9 (c) Information related to the abuse or neglect of a child or an older adult or
10 vulnerable individual that is required by law to be reported;
- 11 (d) An admission of criminal conduct; or
- 12 (e) Information which is required by law to be disclosed.

13 (4) A peer support participant shall hold a privilege from disclosure of any peer support
14 communication in any disciplinary proceeding or any civil or criminal proceeding
15 unless it contains information exempted under subsection (3)(b), (c), (d), or (e) of
16 this section. Under this privilege, the peer support communication shall be subject
17 to the same protections as any counselor-client privilege provided under the
18 Kentucky Rules of Evidence in any criminal or civil proceeding.

19 (5) Nothing in subsection (3) or (4) of this section shall be interpreted or construed to
20 prohibit:

- 21 (a) The use of or sharing by the public agency of anonymous data for research,
22 statistical analysis, or educational purposes;
- 23 (b) The disclosure of an observation by an employee of the public agency of a
24 peer support participant outside of a peer support counseling session and not
25 contained in peer support communication; or
- 26 (c) The disclosure of knowledge of a law enforcement officer of the public
27 agency about a peer support participant not gained from peer support

1 communication.

2 ➔Section 19. The following KRS section is repealed:

3 65.870 Local firearms control ordinances prohibited -- Exemption from immunity --
4 Declaratory and injunctive relief.

5 ➔Section 20. Section 5 of this Act takes effect on January 1, 2025.

6 ➔Section 21. Whereas the protection of the safety of the citizens of Kentucky is
7 of primary importance, an emergency is declared to exist, and Sections 1 to 4 and 6 to 19
8 of this Act take effect upon their passage and approval by the Governor or upon their
9 otherwise becoming a law.