

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 856

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to firearms; amending 21 O.S. 2021, Sections 1277 and 1280.1, which relate to the carrying of firearms in certain places; authorizing certain school personnel to carry a concealed handgun on public school property under certain circumstances; requiring continued education and training; requiring certain biennial training; updating statutory reference; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 5-149.2, which relates to the authorization of certain persons to carry handguns on public school property; authorizing school boards to adopt policies related to the carrying of concealed handguns on public school property by certain school personnel; requiring continued education and training; authorizing boards of education to designate certain school personnel to attend certain training programs; removing certain storage provisions; clarifying immunity from liability provisions; updating statutory references; updating statutory language; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2021, Section 1277, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1277.

UNLAWFUL CARRY IN CERTAIN PLACES

1 A. It shall be unlawful for any person, including a person in  
2 possession of a valid handgun license issued pursuant to the  
3 provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act, to carry any concealed  
4 or unconcealed firearm into any of the following places:

5 1. Any structure, building, or office space which is owned or  
6 leased by a city, town, county, state, or federal governmental  
7 authority for the purpose of conducting business with the public;

8 2. Any courthouse, courtroom, prison, jail, detention facility,  
9 or any facility used to process, hold, or house arrested persons,  
10 prisoners, or persons alleged delinquent or adjudicated delinquent,  
11 except as provided in Section 21 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma  
12 Statutes;

13 3. Any public or private elementary or public or private  
14 secondary school, except as provided in subsections C and D of this  
15 section;

16 4. Any publicly owned or operated sports arena or venue during  
17 a professional sporting event, unless allowed by the event holder;

18 5. Any place where gambling is authorized by law, unless  
19 allowed by the property owner;

20 6. Any other place specifically prohibited by law; and

21 7. Any property set aside by a county, city, town, public trust  
22 with a county, city, or town as a beneficiary, or state governmental  
23 authority for an event that is secured with ~~minimum security~~ minimum  
24 security provisions. For purposes of this paragraph, a ~~minimum~~

1 ~~security~~ minimum security provision consists of a location that is  
2 secured utilizing the following:

- 3 a. a metallic-style security fence that is at least eight  
4 (8) feet in height that encompasses the property and  
5 is secured in such a way as to deter unauthorized  
6 entry,
- 7 b. controlled access points staffed by a uniformed,  
8 commissioned peace officer, and
- 9 c. a metal detector whereby persons walk or otherwise  
10 travel with their property through or by the metal  
11 detector.

12 B. It shall be lawful for a person to carry a concealed or  
13 unconcealed firearm on the following properties:

- 14 1. Any property set aside for the use or parking of any  
15 vehicle, whether attended or unattended, by a city, town, county,  
16 state, or federal governmental authority;
- 17 2. Any property set aside for the use or parking of any  
18 vehicle, whether attended or unattended, which is open to the  
19 public, or by any entity engaged in gambling authorized by law;
- 20 3. Any property adjacent to a structure, building, or office  
21 space in which concealed or unconcealed weapons are prohibited by  
22 the provisions of this section;
- 23 4. Any property designated by a city, town, county, or state  
24 governmental authority as a park, recreational area, wildlife

1 refuge, wildlife management area, or fairgrounds; provided, nothing  
2 in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize any entry by a  
3 person in possession of a concealed or unconcealed firearm into any  
4 structure, building, office space, or event which is specifically  
5 prohibited by the provisions of subsection A of this section;

6 5. Any property set aside by a public or private elementary or  
7 secondary school for the use or parking of any vehicle, whether  
8 attended or unattended; provided, however, the firearm shall be  
9 stored and hidden from view in a locked motor vehicle when the motor  
10 vehicle is left unattended on school property; and

11 6. Any public property set aside temporarily by a county, city,  
12 town, public trust with a county, city, or town as a beneficiary, or  
13 state governmental authority for the holder of an event permit that  
14 is without ~~minimum-security~~ minimum security provisions, as such  
15 term is defined in paragraph 7 of subsection A of this section;  
16 provided, the carry of firearms within ~~said~~ the permitted event area  
17 shall be limited to concealed carry of a handgun unless otherwise  
18 authorized by the holder of the event permit.

19 Nothing contained in any provision of this subsection or  
20 subsection C of this section shall be construed to authorize or  
21 allow any person in control of any place described in subsection A  
22 of this section to establish any policy or rule that has the effect  
23 of prohibiting any person in lawful possession of a handgun license  
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1 or otherwise in lawful possession of a firearm from carrying or  
2 possessing the firearm on the property described in this subsection.

3 C. A concealed or unconcealed weapon may be carried onto  
4 private school property or in any school bus or vehicle used by any  
5 private school for transportation of students or teachers by a  
6 person who is licensed pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act,  
7 provided a policy has been adopted by the governing entity of the  
8 private school that authorizes the carrying and possession of a  
9 weapon on private school property or in any school bus or vehicle  
10 used by a private school. Except for acts of gross negligence or  
11 willful or wanton misconduct, a governing entity of a private school  
12 that adopts a policy which authorizes the possession of a weapon on  
13 private school property, a school bus, or a vehicle used by the  
14 private school shall not be subject to liability for any injuries  
15 arising from the adoption of the policy. The provisions of this  
16 subsection shall not apply to claims pursuant to the Administrative  
17 Workers' Compensation Act.

18 D. ~~Notwithstanding paragraph 3 of subsection A of this section,~~  
19 ~~a~~ A board of education of a public school district may adopt a  
20 policy pursuant to Section 5-149.2 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
21 Statutes to authorize the carrying of a concealed handgun onto  
22 school property by school personnel specifically designated by the  
23 board of education, provided such personnel ~~either~~:

1           1. Possess a valid armed security guard license as provided for  
2 in ~~Section 1750.1 et seq. of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ the  
3 Oklahoma Security Guard and Private Investigator Act; ~~or~~

4           2. Hold a valid reserve peace officer certification as provided  
5 for in Section 3311 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~;~~ or

6           3. a. possess a valid handgun license issued pursuant to the  
7 provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act,

8           b. have successfully completed twenty-four (24) hours of  
9 training to include a minimum of four (4) hours of  
10 weapon retention training certified by the Council on  
11 Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET), and

12           c. have demonstrated proficiency in handgun training and  
13 campus-specific active shooter training as determined  
14 by the appropriate law enforcement agency having  
15 jurisdiction in that public school district.

16           In addition to any other continuing education requirements,  
17 personnel authorized to carry pursuant to the provisions of this  
18 subsection shall be required to obtain biennial training to include,  
19 but not be limited to, four (4) hours of CLEET-certified weapon  
20 retention training, four (4) hours of campus-specific active shooter  
21 training, and any other training as deemed necessary by the  
22 appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in that  
23 public school district. Required training may be provided by such

1 law enforcement agency or by a privately contracted company that  
2 offers the appropriate training.

3 A person authorized to carry pursuant to the provisions of this  
4 subsection shall maintain the concealed firearm on his or her person  
5 at all times while on the school property.

6 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to restrict authority  
7 granted elsewhere in law to carry firearms.

8 E. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this  
9 section, on any property designated as a municipal zoo or park of  
10 any size that is owned, leased, operated, or managed by:

11 1. A public trust created pursuant to the provisions of Section  
12 176 of Title 60 of the Oklahoma Statutes; or

13 2. A nonprofit entity,  
14 an individual shall be allowed to carry a concealed handgun but not  
15 openly carry a handgun on the property.

16 F. Any person violating the provisions of paragraph 2 or 3 of  
17 subsection A of this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a  
18 misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty  
19 Dollars (\$250.00). A person violating any other provision of  
20 subsection A of this section may be denied entrance onto the  
21 property or removed from the property. If the person refuses to  
22 leave the property and a peace officer is summoned, the person may  
23 be issued a citation for an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty  
24 Dollars (\$250.00).

1 G. No person in possession of a valid handgun license issued  
2 pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act or who  
3 is carrying or in possession of a firearm as otherwise permitted by  
4 law or who is carrying or in possession of a machete, blackjack,  
5 loaded cane, hand chain, or metal knuckles shall be authorized to  
6 carry the firearm, machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain, or  
7 metal knuckles into or upon any college, university, or technology  
8 center school property, except as provided in this subsection. For  
9 purposes of this subsection, the following property shall not be  
10 construed to be college, university, or technology center school  
11 property:

12 1. Any property set aside for the use or parking of any motor  
13 vehicle, whether attended or unattended, provided the firearm,  
14 machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain, or metal knuckles are  
15 carried or stored as required by law and the firearm, machete,  
16 blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain, or metal knuckles are not  
17 removed from the motor vehicle without the prior consent of the  
18 college or university president or technology center school  
19 administrator while the vehicle is on any college, university, or  
20 technology center school property;

21 2. Any property authorized for possession or use of firearms,  
22 machetes, blackjacks, loaded canes, hand chains, or metal knuckles  
23 by college, university, or technology center school policy; and  
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1           3. Any property authorized by the written consent of the  
2 college or university president or technology center school  
3 administrator, provided the written consent is carried with the  
4 firearm, machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain, or metal  
5 knuckles and the valid handgun license while on college, university,  
6 or technology center school property.

7           The college, university, or technology center school may notify  
8 the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation within ten (10) days of a  
9 violation of any provision of this subsection by a licensee. Upon  
10 receipt of a written notification of violation, the Bureau shall  
11 give a reasonable notice to the licensee and hold a hearing. At the  
12 hearing, upon a determination that the licensee has violated any  
13 provision of this subsection, the licensee may be subject to an  
14 administrative fine of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) and may  
15 have the handgun license suspended for three (3) months.

16           Nothing contained in any provision of this subsection shall be  
17 construed to authorize or allow any college, university, or  
18 technology center school to establish any policy or rule that has  
19 the effect of prohibiting any person in lawful possession of a  
20 handgun license or any person in lawful possession of a firearm,  
21 machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand chain, or metal knuckles from  
22 possession of a firearm, machete, blackjack, loaded cane, hand  
23 chain, or metal knuckles in places described in paragraphs 1, 2, and  
24 3 of this subsection. Nothing contained in any provision of this

1 subsection shall be construed to limit the authority of any college,  
2 university, or technology center school in this state from taking  
3 administrative action against any student for any violation of any  
4 provision of this subsection.

5 H. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the  
6 following:

7 1. Any peace officer or any person authorized by law to carry a  
8 firearm in the course of employment;

9 2. District judges, associate district judges, and special  
10 district judges, who are in possession of a valid handgun license  
11 issued pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act  
12 and whose names appear on a list maintained by the Administrative  
13 Director of the Courts, when acting in the course and scope of  
14 employment within the courthouses of this state;

15 3. Private investigators with a firearms authorization when  
16 acting in the course and scope of employment;

17 4. Elected officials of a county, who are in possession of a  
18 valid handgun license issued pursuant to the provisions of the  
19 Oklahoma Self-Defense Act, may carry a concealed handgun when acting  
20 in the performance of his or her duties within the courthouses of  
21 the county in which he or she was elected. The provisions of this  
22 paragraph shall not allow the elected county official to carry the  
23 handgun into a courtroom;

1           5. The sheriff of any county may authorize certain employees of  
2 the county, who possess a valid handgun license issued pursuant to  
3 the provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act, to carry a  
4 concealed handgun when acting in the course and scope of employment  
5 within the courthouse in the county in which the person is employed.  
6 Nothing in the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act shall prohibit the sheriff  
7 from requiring additional instruction or training before granting  
8 authorization to carry a concealed handgun within the courthouse.  
9 The provisions of this paragraph and of paragraph 6 of this  
10 subsection shall not allow the county employee to carry the handgun  
11 into a courtroom, sheriff's office, adult or juvenile jail, or any  
12 other prisoner detention area; and

13           6. The board of county commissioners of any county may  
14 authorize certain employees of the county, who possess a valid  
15 handgun license issued pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma  
16 Self-Defense Act, to carry a concealed handgun when acting in the  
17 course and scope of employment on county annex facilities or grounds  
18 surrounding the county courthouse.

19           I. For the purposes of this section, "motor vehicle" means any  
20 automobile, truck, minivan, sports utility vehicle, or motorcycle,  
21 as defined in Section 1-135 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
22 equipped with a locked accessory container within or affixed to the  
23 motorcycle.  
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1 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2021, Section 1280.1, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 1280.1.

4 POSSESSION OF FIREARM ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

5 A. It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his or her  
6 possession on any public or private school property or while in any  
7 school bus or vehicle used by any school for transportation of  
8 students or teachers any firearm or weapon designated in Section  
9 1272 of this title, except as provided in subsection C of this  
10 section or as otherwise authorized by law.

11 B. For purposes of this section:

12 1. "School property" means any publicly owned property held for  
13 purposes of elementary, secondary, or vocational-technical  
14 education, and shall not include property owned by public school  
15 districts or where such property is leased or rented to an  
16 individual or corporation and used for purposes other than  
17 educational;

18 2. "Private school" means a school that offers a course of  
19 instruction for students in one or more grades from prekindergarten  
20 through grade twelve and is not operated by a governmental entity;  
21 and

22 3. "Motor vehicle" means any automobile, truck, minivan, or  
23 sports utility vehicle.  
24

1 C. Firearms and weapons are allowed on school property and  
2 deemed not in violation of subsection A of this section as follows:

3 1. A gun or knife designed for hunting or fishing purposes kept  
4 in a privately owned vehicle and properly displayed or stored as  
5 required by law, provided such vehicle containing ~~said~~ the gun or  
6 knife is driven onto school property only to transport a student to  
7 and from school and such vehicle does not remain unattended on  
8 school property;

9 2. A gun or knife used for the purposes of participating in the  
10 ~~Oklahoma~~ Department of Wildlife Conservation certified hunter  
11 training education course or any other hunting, fishing, safety, or  
12 firearms training courses, or a recognized firearms sports event,  
13 team shooting program or competition, or living history reenactment,  
14 provided the course or event is approved by the principal or chief  
15 administrator of the school where the course or event is offered,  
16 and provided the weapon is properly displayed or stored as required  
17 by law pending participation in the course, event, program, or  
18 competition;

19 3. Weapons in the possession of any peace officer or other  
20 person authorized by law to possess a weapon in the performance of  
21 his or her duties and responsibilities;

22 4. A concealed or unconcealed weapon carried onto private  
23 school property or in any school bus or vehicle used by any private  
24 school for transportation of students or teachers by a person who is  
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1 licensed pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act, provided a  
2 policy has been adopted by the governing entity of the private  
3 school that authorizes the possession of a weapon on private school  
4 property or in any school bus or vehicle used by a private school.  
5 Except for acts of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct,  
6 a governing entity of a private school that adopts a policy which  
7 authorizes the possession of a weapon on private school property, a  
8 school bus, or a vehicle used by the private school shall be immune  
9 from liability for any injuries arising from the adoption of the  
10 policy. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to claims  
11 pursuant to the Workers' Compensation Code;

12 5. A gun, knife, bayonet, or other weapon in the possession of  
13 a member of a veterans group, the ~~national guard~~ National Guard,  
14 active military, the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), or  
15 Junior ROTC, in order to participate in a ceremony, assembly, or  
16 educational program approved by the principal or chief administrator  
17 of a school or school district where the ceremony, assembly, or  
18 educational program is being held; provided, however, the gun or  
19 other weapon that uses projectiles is not loaded and is inoperable  
20 at all times while on school property;

21 6. A handgun carried in a motor vehicle pursuant to a valid  
22 handgun license authorized by the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act onto  
23 property set aside by a public or private elementary or secondary  
24 school for the use or parking of any vehicle; provided, however,

1 ~~said~~ the handgun shall be stored and hidden from view in a locked  
2 motor vehicle when the motor vehicle is left unattended on school  
3 property; and

4 7. A concealed handgun carried onto public school property by  
5 school personnel who have been designated by the board of education,  
6 ~~provided such personnel either:~~

7 a. ~~possess a valid armed security guard license as~~  
8 ~~provided for in Section 1750.1 et seq. of Title 59 of~~  
9 ~~the Oklahoma Statutes, or~~

10 b. ~~hold a valid reserve peace officer certification as~~  
11 ~~provided for in Section 3311 of Title 70 of the~~  
12 ~~Oklahoma Statutes,~~

13 ~~if a policy has been adopted by the board of education of the school~~  
14 ~~district that authorizes the carrying of a handgun onto public~~  
15 ~~school property by such personnel pursuant to subsection D of~~  
16 Section 1277 of this title.

17 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to restrict authority  
18 granted elsewhere in law to carry firearms.

19 D. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall,  
20 upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine ~~of~~  
21 not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).

22 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 5-149.2, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 5-149.2. A. The board of education of a public school  
2 district may, ~~through a majority vote of the board, designate~~ adopt  
3 a policy to authorize the carrying of a concealed handgun onto  
4 school property by school personnel who have been issued a handgun  
5 license pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act to attend an  
6 specifically designated by the public school board of education,  
7 provided such personnel:

8 1. Possess a valid armed security guard license as provided for  
9 in the Oklahoma Security Guard and Private Investigator Act;

10 2. Hold a valid reserve peace officer certification as provided  
11 for in Section 3311 of this title; or

12 3. a. possess a valid handgun license issued pursuant to the  
13 provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act,

14 b. have successfully completed twenty-four (24) hours of  
15 training including a minimum of four (4) hours of  
16 weapon retention training certified by the Council on  
17 Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET), and

18 c. have demonstrated proficiency in handgun training and  
19 campus-specific active shooter training as determined  
20 by the appropriate law enforcement agency having  
21 jurisdiction in that public school district.

22 Ongoing continuing education and training shall be required of  
23 any person authorized by the board of education to carry a concealed  
24



1 handgun pursuant to the provisions and requirements provided in  
2 subsection D of Section 1277 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

3 B. The board of education of a public school may designate  
4 school personnel to attend an armed security guard training program,  
5 as provided for in Section 1750.5 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma  
6 Statutes, or a reserve peace officer certification program, as  
7 provided for in Section 3311 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~  
8 this title, provided and developed by the Council on Law Enforcement  
9 Education and Training (CLEET). Nothing in this section shall be  
10 construed to prohibit or limit the board of education of a school  
11 district from requiring ongoing education and training.

12 ~~B.~~ C. Participation in ~~either~~ the armed security guard training  
13 program ~~or~~, the reserve peace officer certification program, or  
14 training to carry a handgun as provided in paragraph 3 of subsection  
15 A of this section shall be voluntary and shall not in any way be  
16 considered a requirement for continued employment with the public  
17 school district. The board of education of a public school district  
18 shall have the final authority to determine and designate the school  
19 personnel who will be authorized to obtain and use an armed security  
20 guard license or reserve peace officer certification or participate  
21 with a handgun license and required training components in  
22 conjunction with their employment as school personnel.

23 ~~C.~~ D. The board of education of a public school district that  
24 authorizes school personnel to participate in ~~either~~ the armed  
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1 security guard program ~~or~~, the reserve peace officer program, or the  
2 training to carry a handgun as provided in paragraph 3 of subsection  
3 A of this section may pay all necessary training, meal, and lodging  
4 expenses associated with the training.

5 ~~D.~~ E. When carrying a firearm pursuant to the provisions of  
6 this ~~act~~ section, the person shall at all times carry the firearm on  
7 his or her person ~~or the firearm shall be stored in a locked and~~  
8 ~~secure location.~~

9 ~~E.~~ F. Any public school personnel who have successfully  
10 completed ~~either~~ armed security guard training, reserve peace  
11 officer certification training, or training to carry a handgun as  
12 provided in paragraph 3 of subsection A of this section and while  
13 acting in ~~good faith~~ a reasonable and prudent manner shall not be  
14 ~~immune from~~ subject to civil and criminal liability for any injury  
15 resulting from the carrying of a handgun onto public school property  
16 as provided for in this ~~act~~ section. Any board of education of a  
17 public school district or participating local law enforcement agency  
18 shall not be ~~immune from~~ subject to civil and criminal liability for  
19 any injury resulting from any act committed by school personnel who  
20 are designated to carry a concealed handgun on public school  
21 property pursuant to the provisions of this ~~act~~ section.

22 ~~F.~~ G. In order to carry out the provisions of this section, the  
23 board of education of a public school district is authorized to  
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1 enter into a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement  
2 entities.

3 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

4 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
5 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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