

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

As Engrossed: S2/15/23

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1018

5 By: Representative S. Meeks  
6 By: Senator B. Johnson  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A MEMBER OF A MUNICIPAL FIRE  
10 DEPARTMENT BOMB SQUAD TO LAWFULLY CARRY A WEAPON IN  
11 CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF A  
12 MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT BOMB SQUAD TO CARRY A  
13 CONCEALED HANDGUN WITHOUT A LICENSE TO CARRY A  
14 CONCEALED HANDGUN IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND FOR  
15 OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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19 *TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF A MUNICIPAL FIRE*  
20 *DEPARTMENT BOMB SQUAD TO LAWFULLY CARRY A*  
21 *WEAPON IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.*  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-73-119(e)(2), concerning circumstances in  
27 which possessing a handgun on school property is permissible, is amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (2) The person is a law enforcement officer, correctional  
30 officer, member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized  
31 to carry a concealed handgun under § 12-15-204, or member of the armed forces  
32 acting in the course and scope of his or her official duties;  
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-73-120(c)(2), concerning circumstances in  
35 which carrying a weapon is permissible, is amended to read as follows:

36 (2) The person is a law enforcement officer, correctional



1 officer, member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized  
2 to carry a concealed handgun under § 12-15-204, or member of the armed forces  
3 acting in the course and scope of his or her official duties;

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5 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-73-122(a)(1)-(2), concerning carrying a  
6 firearm in publicly owned buildings or facilities, is amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 (a)(1) Except as provided in § 5-73-322, § 5-73-306(5), § 16-21-147,  
9 and this section, it is unlawful for a person other than a law enforcement  
10 officer, either on-duty or off-duty, a security guard in the employ of the  
11 state or an agency of the state or any city or county, a member of a  
12 municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized to carry a concealed  
13 handgun under § 12-15-204, or any state or federal military personnel, to  
14 knowingly carry or possess a loaded firearm or other deadly weapon in any  
15 publicly owned building or facility or on the State Capitol grounds.

16 (2) It is unlawful for any person other than a law enforcement  
17 officer, either on-duty or off-duty, a security guard in the employ of the  
18 state or an agency of the state or any city or county, a member of a  
19 municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized to carry a concealed  
20 handgun under § 12-15-204, or any state or federal military personnel, to  
21 knowingly carry or possess a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, in the  
22 State Capitol Building or the Arkansas Justice Building in Little Rock.

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24 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2, is  
25 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 12-15-204. Bomb squad – Concealed carry of a handgun authorized.

27 (a) A member of a municipal fire department bomb squad may carry a  
28 concealed handgun if he or she:

29 (1) Has successfully completed the part-time law enforcement  
30 officer course of study approved by the Arkansas Commission on Law  
31 Enforcement Standards and Training, as required for specialized police  
32 personnel;

33 (2) Is acting in his or her official capacity as a member of a  
34 municipal fire department bomb squad;

35 (3) Is not subject to any disciplinary action that suspends his  
36 or her authority as a member of the municipal fire department bomb squad;

- 1                   (4) Is carrying a badge or appropriate written photographic
- 2 identification issued by the municipal fire department identifying him or her
- 3 as a member of the municipal fire department bomb squad;
- 4                   (5) Is not otherwise prohibited under federal law from receiving
- 5 or possessing a firearm;
- 6                   (6) Is not under the influence of alcohol or another
- 7 intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance; and
- 8                   (7) Has fingerprint impressions on file with the Division of
- 9 Arkansas State Police automated fingerprint identification system.
- 10                  (b) A member of a municipal fire department bomb squad carrying a
- 11 concealed handgun under this section is not subject to the prohibitions and
- 12 limitations of § 5-73-306.

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*/s/S. Meeks*

**APPROVED: 3/2/23**