

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 1237

Became law April 17, 2026, without approval of the Governor.

Introduced by Executive Board: Hansen, 16, Chairperson; Arch, 14; Ballard, 21; Bostar, 29; Clements, 2; Dorn, 30; Fredrickson, 20; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; McKinney, 11; Cavanaugh, J., 9.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the State Capitol; to amend section 28-1202.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and sections 28-101 and 81-1108.15, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to prohibit certain weapons and prohibited substances from being brought into the State Capitol as prescribed; to provide for the carrying of concealed handguns in the State Capitol as prescribed; to define terms; to provide a duty to the Nebraska State Patrol; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

**Section 1.** Section 28-101, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is amended to read:

28-101 Sections 28-101 to 28-1357, 28-1601 to 28-1603, and 28-1701 and section 2 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Criminal Code.

**Sec. 2.** (1) For purposes of this section the definitions in section 28-1201 and the following definitions apply:

(a) Prohibited substance means explosive, incendiary, or other combustible devices; hazardous materials; or paint or spray paint; and

(b) Weapon means any:

(i) Firearm; or

(ii) Knife with a blade over three and one-half inches in length and which, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is capable of producing death or serious bodily injury.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a person shall not knowingly enter or attempt to enter the State Capitol while in possession of a weapon or prohibited substance.

(3) This section does not apply to:

(a) A person who has received prior approval from the Nebraska State Patrol;

(b) The possession of a weapon by a law enforcement officer, as defined in section 81-1401, who is acting in the course of his or her official duties;

(c) The carrying of a concealed handgun by a qualified law enforcement officer or qualified retired law enforcement officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 926B or 926C, respectively, as such sections existed on January 1, 2026; or

(d) The carrying of a concealed handgun by an individual holding a current and valid permit to carry a concealed handgun issued pursuant to the Concealed Handgun Permit Act.

**Sec. 3.** Section 28-1202.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, is amended to read:

28-1202.01 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section and section 28-1204.04, a person, other than a minor or a prohibited person, may carry a concealed handgun anywhere in Nebraska, with or without a permit under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, a person shall not carry a concealed handgun into or onto any place or premises where the person, persons, entity, or entities in control of the place or premises or employer in control of the place or premises has prohibited the carrying of concealed handguns into or onto the place or premises.

(3) Except as provided in subsections subsection (10) and (11) of this section, a person shall not carry a concealed handgun into or onto any: Police, sheriff, or Nebraska State Patrol station or office; detention facility, prison, or jail; courtroom or building which contains a courtroom; polling place during a bona fide election; meeting of the governing body of a county, public school district, municipality, or other political subdivision; meeting of the Legislature or a committee of the Legislature; financial institution; professional or semiprofessional athletic event; building, grounds, vehicle, or sponsored activity or athletic event of any school; place of worship; hospital, emergency room, or trauma center; political rally or fundraiser; establishment having a license issued under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act that derives over one-half of its total income from the sale of alcoholic liquor; place where the possession or carrying of a firearm is prohibited by state or federal law; or any other place or premises where handguns are prohibited by state law.

(4)(a) A financial institution may authorize its security personnel to carry concealed handguns in the financial institution while on duty so long as each member of the security personnel, as authorized, is not otherwise prohibited by state law from possessing or carrying a concealed handgun and is in compliance with sections 28-1202.02 to 28-1202.04.

(b) A place of worship may authorize its security personnel to carry concealed handguns on its property if:

(i) Each member of the security personnel, as authorized, is not otherwise

prohibited by state law from possessing or carrying a concealed handgun and is in compliance with sections 28-1202.02 to 28-1202.04;

(ii) Written notice is given to the congregation; and

(iii) For leased property, the carrying of concealed handguns on the property does not violate the terms of any real property lease agreement between the place of worship and the lessor.

(5) If a person, persons, entity, or entities in control of the place or premises or an employer in control of the place or premises prohibits the carrying of concealed handguns into or onto the place or premises and such place or premises are open to the public, a person does not violate this section unless the person, persons, entity, or entities in control of the place or premises or employer in control of the place or premises has posted conspicuous notice that carrying a concealed handgun is prohibited in or on the place or premises or has made a request, directly or through an authorized representative or management personnel, that the person remove the concealed handgun from the place or premises.

(6) A person carrying a concealed handgun in a vehicle or on his or her person while riding in or on a vehicle into or onto any parking area, which is open to the public, used by any location listed in subsection (2) or (3) of this section, does not violate this section if, prior to exiting the vehicle, the handgun is locked inside the glove box, trunk, or other compartment of the vehicle, a storage box securely attached to the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is a motorcycle, other than an autocyte, a hardened compartment securely attached to the motorcycle. This subsection does not apply to any parking area used by such location when the carrying of a concealed handgun into or onto such parking area is prohibited by federal law.

(7) An employer may prohibit employees or other persons from carrying concealed handguns in vehicles owned by the employer.

(8) A violation of this section is a Class III misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class I misdemeanor for any second or subsequent offense.

(9)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (9)(b) of this section, it is an affirmative defense to a violation of subsection (3) of this section that the defendant was engaged in any lawful business, calling, or employment at the time the defendant was carrying a concealed handgun and the circumstances in which the defendant was placed at the time were such as to justify a prudent person in carrying a concealed handgun for the defense of his or her person, property, or family.

(b) The affirmative defense provided for in this subsection:

(i) Does not prevent a prosecution for a violation of section 28-1204.04; and

(ii) Is not available if the defendant refuses to remove the concealed handgun from the place or premises after a person in control of the place or premises has made a request, directly or through an authorized representative or management personnel, that the defendant remove the concealed handgun from the place or premises.

(10) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section do not apply to a qualified law enforcement officer or qualified retired law enforcement officer carrying a concealed handgun pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 926B or 926C, respectively, as such sections existed on January 1, 2023.

(11) Subsection (3) of this section does not apply in the State Capitol for an individual holding a current and valid permit to carry a concealed handgun issued pursuant to the Concealed Handgun Permit Act.

~~(12)~~ ~~(11)~~ Action taken in compliance with section 28-1204.04 shall not be a violation of this section.

**Sec. 4.** Section 81-1108.15, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is amended to read:

81-1108.15 (1) Except as provided in the Nebraska State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Act, the division shall have the primary functions and responsibilities of statewide facilities planning, facilities construction, and facilities administration and shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section.

(2) Facilities planning shall include the following responsibilities and duties:

(a) To maintain utilization records of all state-owned, state-occupied, and vacant facilities;

(b) To coordinate comprehensive capital facilities planning;

(c) To define and review program statements based on space utilization standards;

(d) To prepare or review planning and construction documents;

(e) To develop and maintain time-cost schedules for capital construction projects;

(f) To assist the Governor and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst in the preparation of the capital construction budget recommendations;

(g) To maintain a complete inventory of all state-owned, state-occupied, and vacant sites and structures and to review the proposals for naming such sites and structures;

(h) To determine space needs of all state agencies and establish space-allocation standards;

(i) To cause a state comprehensive capital facilities plan to be developed; and

(j) To carry out the State Building Construction Alternatives Act.

(3) Facilities construction shall include the following powers and duties:

(a) To maintain close contact with and conduct inspections of each project

so as to assure execution of time-cost schedules and efficient contract performance if such project's total design and construction cost is equal to or greater than the project cost set by subdivision (1)(a) of section 81-1108.43 as adjusted by subsection (2) of section 81-1108.43;

(b) To perform final acceptance inspections and evaluations; and

(c) To coordinate all change or modification orders and progress payment orders.

(4) Facilities administration shall include the following powers and duties:

(a) To serve as state leasing administrator or agent for all facilities to be leased for use by the state and for all state-owned facilities to be rented to state agencies or other parties subject to section 81-1108.22. The division shall remit the proceeds from any rentals of state-owned facilities to the State Treasurer for credit to the State Building Revolving Fund and the State Building Renewal Assessment Fund;

(b) To provide all maintenance, repairs, custodial duties, security, and administration for all buildings and grounds owned or leased by the State of Nebraska except as provided in subsections (5) and (6) of this section;

(c) To be responsible for adequate parking and the designation of parking stalls or spaces, including access aisles, in offstreet parking facilities for the exclusive use of handicapped or disabled or temporarily handicapped or disabled persons pursuant to section 18-1737;

(d) To ensure that all state-owned, state-occupied, and vacant facilities are maintained or utilized to their maximum capacity or to dispose of such facilities through lease, sale, or demolition;

(e) To submit electronically a report regarding the amount of property leased by the state and the availability of state-owned property for the needs of state agencies, upon request by the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, the Committee on Building Maintenance, or a member of the Legislature;

(f) To administer the State Emergency Capital Construction Contingency Fund;

(g) To submit status reports to the Governor and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst after each quarter of a construction project is completed detailing change orders and expenditures to date. The report submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall be submitted electronically. Such reports shall be required on all projects costing an amount equal to or greater than the amount set forth in subdivision (1)(a) of section 81-1108.43 as adjusted by subsection (2) of section 81-1108.43 and on such other projects as may be designated by the division; and

(h) To submit a final report on each project to the Governor and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. The report submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall be submitted electronically. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, a comparison of final costs and appropriations made for the project, change orders, and modifications and whether the construction complied with the related approved program statement. Such reports shall be required on all projects costing an amount equal to or greater than the amount set forth in subdivision (1)(a) of section 81-1108.43 as adjusted by subsection (2) of section 81-1108.43 and on such other projects as may be designated by the division.

(5) Subdivisions (4)(b), (c), and (d) of this section shall not apply to (a) state-owned facilities to be rented to state agencies or other parties by the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska state colleges, the Department of Transportation, and the Board of Educational Lands and Funds, (b) buildings and grounds owned or leased for use by the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska state colleges, and the Board of Educational Lands and Funds, (c) buildings and grounds owned, leased, or operated by the Department of Correctional Services, (d) facilities to be leased for nonoffice use by the Department of Transportation, (e) buildings or grounds owned or leased by the Game and Parks Commission if the application of such subdivisions to the buildings or grounds would result in ineligibility for or repayment of federal funding, (f) buildings or grounds of the state park system, state recreation areas, state historical parks, state wildlife management areas, or state recreational trails, or (g) other buildings or grounds owned or leased by the State of Nebraska which are specifically exempted by the division because the application of such subdivisions would result in the ineligibility for federal funding or would result in hardship on an agency, board, or commission due to other exceptional or unusual circumstances, except that nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit the assessment of building rental depreciation charges to tenants of facilities owned by the state and under the direct control and maintenance of the division.

(6)(a) ~~(6)~~ Security for all buildings and grounds owned or leased by the State of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska, except the buildings and grounds described in subsection (5) of this section, shall be the responsibility of the Nebraska State Patrol. The Nebraska State Patrol shall consult with the Governor, the Chief Justice, the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, and the State Capitol Administrator regarding security policy within the State Capitol and capitol grounds.

(b) Following consultation as provided for in subdivision (a) of this subsection, the Nebraska State Patrol shall, no later than January 1, 2027, implement procedures to ensure the State Capitol is secure and provide for the detection of weapons and prohibited substances as defined in section 2 of this act to prevent such weapons and prohibited substances from being brought into

the State Capitol in violation of section 2 of this act.

(7) Each member of the Legislature shall receive an electronic copy of the reports required by subdivisions (4)(g) and (h) of this section by making a request for them to the State Building Administrator. The information on such reports shall be submitted to the division by the agency responsible for the project.

**Sec. 5.** Original section 28-1202.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and sections 28-101 and 81-1108.15, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, are repealed.