

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 39 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, KEARNEY, COMITTA, STREET, FONTANA,  
HAYWOOD, COSTA, KANE, TARTAGLIONE AND SAVAL, JANUARY 22, 2025

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JANUARY 22, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in inchoate crimes, providing for the  
3 offense of possession of firearm or other dangerous weapon in  
4 public recreation area.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 914. Possession of firearm or other dangerous weapon in  
10 public recreation area.

11 (a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if the  
12 person:

13 (1) knowingly possesses a firearm or other dangerous  
14 weapon in a public recreation area or knowingly causes a  
15 firearm or other dangerous weapon to be present in a public  
16 recreation area; or

17 (2) knowingly possesses a firearm or other dangerous  
18 weapon in a public recreation area with the intent that the  
19 firearm or other dangerous weapon be used in the commission

1 of a crime or knowingly causes a firearm or other dangerous  
2 weapon to be present in a public recreation area with the  
3 intent that the firearm or other dangerous weapon be used in  
4 the commission of a crime.

5 (b) Grading.--

6 (1) An offense under subsection (a)(1) is a misdemeanor  
7 of the third degree.

8 (2) An offense under subsection (a)(2) is a misdemeanor  
9 of the first degree.

10 (c) Exceptions.--Subsection (a) shall not apply to:

11 (1) The lawful performance of official duties by an  
12 officer, agent or employee of the United States, the  
13 Commonwealth or a political subdivision who is authorized by  
14 law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection,  
15 investigation or prosecution of a violation of law.

16 (2) The carrying of a rifle or shotgun by an instructor  
17 or participant in a course of instruction provided by the  
18 Pennsylvania Game Commission under 34 Pa.C.S. § 2704  
19 (relating to eligibility for license).

20 (3) An association of veteran soldiers and its  
21 auxiliaries or members of the armed forces of the United  
22 States or the Commonwealth, including a reserve component,  
23 when engaged in the performance of ceremonial duties with  
24 county approval.

25 (d) Private recreation area.--Nothing in this section may be  
26 construed to restrict the rights of the owner of a private  
27 recreation area to implement policies relating to dangerous  
28 weapons in the private recreation area.

29 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
30 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this

1 subsection:

2 "Dangerous weapon." Any of the following when possessed with  
3 intent to use or to provide the material to commit an offense  
4 graded as a misdemeanor of the third degree or higher:

5 (1) A bomb.

6 (2) An explosive or incendiary device.

7 (3) A grenade.

8 (4) A blackjack.

9 (5) Metal knuckles.

10 (6) A dagger.

11 (7) A knife, the blade of which is exposed in an  
12 automatic way by switch, push-button, spring mechanism or  
13 otherwise.

14 (8) Any other implement for the infliction of serious  
15 bodily injury that serves no common lawful purpose.

16 "Firearm." A weapon, including a starter gun, designed to  
17 expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosion,  
18 expansion of gas or escape of gas. The term does not include a  
19 device designed or used exclusively for the firing of stud  
20 cartridges, explosive rivets or similar industrial ammunition.

21 "Private recreation area." A park, recreation center or pool  
22 owned or operated by a private entity.

23 "Public recreation area." A public park, recreation center  
24 or a pool owned or operated by a political subdivision.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.