

HB 944 -- FIREARMS (Reedy)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Rural Community Development

This bill changes the provisions related to firearms.

FIREARMS REGULATION (Section 21.754, RSMo)

The bill preempts the field of firearm business regulation and prohibits the state or its political subdivisions from enacting any law, rule, or regulation that would prohibit, restrict, or reduce the operations of such businesses. The bill applies even in cases of emergency or disaster. Any order, ordinance, regulation in violation of the bill is void. Firearm businesses are defined as businesses that are engaged in manufacturing, distributing, selling, or training for the use of firearms or ammunition and include shooting ranges.

FIREARMS ON PUBLIC TRANSIT (Sections 70.441, 571.107, 577.703, and 577.712)

Currently, it is a crime to board a bus with a dangerous or deadly weapon or carry such a weapon in a terminal. This bill allows a concealed carry permit holder to lawfully carry firearms on public transportation, as defined in the bill. Anyone with a permit may also carry a firearm while traveling by bus. A person with or without a permit may transport a firearm in a non-functioning state by bus if ammunition is not available. This bill does not apply to property of Amtrak or any partnership in which Amtrak engages.

This provision is the same as HB 51 (2020 1st Extraordinary Session).

DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM (Section 571.030)

Currently, a person commits the crime of unlawful use of a weapon if he or she discharges or shoots a firearm from a motor vehicle. The bill allows the discharge of a firearm from a stationary motor vehicle if the firearm is discharged on private property in an unincorporated area of the state to protect livestock from predatory wildlife or dogs that are killing, wounding, or chasing livestock.

BLAIR'S LAW (Section 571.031)

The bill establishes "Blair's Law" which specifies that a person commits the offense of unlawful discharge of a firearm if, with criminal negligence, he or she discharges a firearm within or into

the limits of any municipality. These provisions will not apply if the firearm is discharged under the circumstances listed in the bill.

This provision also contains a graduated penalty provision.

This provision is similar to HB 2169 (2020).

CONCEALED CARRY PERMITS (571.101)

The bill also changes the minimum age to receive a concealed carry permit from 19 years of age or 18 years of age and a member of the United States Armed Forces to 18 years of age.

FIREARMS IN CHURCHES (Section 571.107)

The bill allows the concealed carrying of firearms in churches and other places of worship with a concealed carry permit.