

Commonwealth  
of  
Massachusetts



MASSACHUSETTS  
GUN CONTROL  
ACT OF 1998

Executive Office of Public Safety

Argeo Paul Cellucci  
Governor

Jane Swift  
Lt. Governor

Jane Perlov  
Secretary

[www.state.ma.us/eops](http://www.state.ma.us/eops)

**The Massachusetts Gun Control Act takes effect on October 21, 1998.**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

The new law has significantly changed the requirements regarding the purchase, possession, carrying, storage and licensing of firearms. This law also increases the criminal penalties for unlawful possession and use of firearms.

- Effective June 1, 1998, all new firearm license applicants must complete a certified firearms safety or hunter education course.
- Effective October 21, 1998, all firearms must be stored in a locked container or be equipped with an approved locking device.
- Effective October 21, 1998, the law imposes a ban on covert guns, unreliable guns (junk guns), and certain assault weapons.
- Effective October 21, 1998, the law establishes a new category of large capacity weapons and feeding devices. A weapon is large capacity if it is:  
a semiautomatic handgun or rifle that is capable of accepting a feeding device that holds more than 10 rounds, or more than 5 shotgun shells (in the case of a shotgun).

## FIREARMS IDENTIFICATION (FID) CARD

- Your current FID card will expire on your birthday in 1999 if you were born between July 1 and December 31. It will expire on your birthday in the year 2000 if your birthday falls between January 1 and June 30.
- The new FID card will be valid for 4 years and permits the possession and carrying of non-large capacity rifles and shotguns.
- A restricted FID is available solely for the possession of mace or pepper spray.
- You must be 18 years of age or older, or 15 to 18 years old with parental consent to apply for an FID card.
- The fee for an FID card is \$25.00.
- If you possess an FID card on October 21, 1998, together with a handgun which you obtained with a permit to purchase, your FID card allows you to validly possess this handgun in your residence or place of business.
- If you possess an FID card on October 21, 1998, together with a large capacity rifle or shotgun, you may continue to possess the rifle or shotgun until your FID card expires. At that time, you must apply for a Class B LTC.
- Strict new eligibility requirements now apply. Please contact your local police officials for details.

## LICENSE TO CARRY

The new law creates two types of licenses to carry (LTC).

### Class A

The Class A LTC permits the purchase, possession and carrying of large-capacity handguns, rifles, shotguns and feeding devices.

**THIS IS THE ONLY LICENSE THAT ALLOWS THE CONCEALED CARRYING OF FIREARMS.**

### Class B

The Class B LTC permits the purchase, possession and carrying of non-large capacity handguns and large-capacity rifles and shotguns.

### Class A and Class B LTC Information

- Your current LTC will be valid until its stated expiration date.
- New applicants must be 21 years of age or older to obtain a Class A or Class B LTC.
- The new Class A and Class B LTCs are valid for 4 years.
- The fee for a Class A or Class B LTC is \$25.00.
- Strict new eligibility requirements now apply. Please contact your local police officials for details.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***Where do I apply for an LTC or FID card?***

You can apply for an FID Card or Class A or B LTC at the police department in the city or town where you live or where your principal place of business is located.

***I have an FID card and a LTC. Do I need both?***

No. On October 21, 1998, your current LTC will automatically become a Class A LTC until its stated expiration date.

***What rules apply to hunting?***

Anyone with an FID card or a Class A or B LTC may use a non-large capacity rifle or shotgun for hunting. High capacity rifles or shotguns require either a Class A or B LTC. While engaged in hunting and in possession of a hunting license, a person with an FID or a Class A or B LTC may carry a loaded or unloaded rifle or shotgun on a public way.

***I obtained a license to carry prior to October 21, 1998. When does it expire?***

Your current license is valid until the stated expiration date. Any new LTCs issued are valid only for 4 years.

The information contained in this pamphlet is intended to highlight the relevant sections of the law. It is not intended to set forth all of the obligations and rights of individuals with regard to firearms laws.

FOR A FULL TEXT OF THE LAW, SEE CHAPTER 180 OF THE ACTS OF 1998.

For more information regarding the MA Gun Control Act, contact your local police department.