

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2005 SESSION

CHAPTER 160

An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-287.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to carrying certain loaded weapons in public areas.

[H 1915]

Approved March 20, 2005

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 18.2-287.4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-287.4. Carrying loaded firearms in public areas prohibited; penalty.

It shall be unlawful for any person to carry a loaded ~~firearm~~ (a) *semi-automatic center-fire rifle or pistol that expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material and is equipped at the time of the offense with a magazine that will hold more than 20 rounds of ammunition or designed by the manufacturer to accommodate a silencer or equipped with a folding stock* or (b) *shotgun with a magazine that will hold more than seven rounds of the longest ammunition for which it is chambered* on or about his person on any public street, road, alley, sidewalk, public right-of-way, or in any public park or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public (i) in any city with a population of 160,000 or more or (ii) in any county having an urban county executive form of government or any county or city surrounded thereby or adjacent thereto or in any county having a county manager form of government.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to law-enforcement officers, licensed security guards, military personnel in the performance of their lawful duties, or any person having a valid *concealed handgun* permit to carry such ~~firearm~~ or to any person actually engaged in lawful hunting or lawful recreational shooting activities at an established shooting range or shooting contest. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

For purposes of this section, "firearm" means any (i) *semi-automatic center-fire rifle or pistol that expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material and is equipped at the time of the offense with a magazine which will hold more than 20 rounds of ammunition or designed by the manufacturer to accommodate a silencer or equipped with a folding stock* or (ii) *shotgun with a magazine which will hold more than seven rounds of the longest ammunition for which it is chambered*.

The exemptions set forth in § 18.2-308 shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the provisions of this section.