# Firearms Laws for

# VERMONT

(As of February, 2006)

A SYNOPSIS OF STATE LAWS ON PURCHASE, POSSESSION AND CARRYING OF FIREARMS.



Compiled by:

NRA-Institute for Legislative Action

11250 Waples Mill Road

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

(800) 392-8683

www.nraila.org

## QUICK REFERENCE CHART

	Rifles and	
	Shotguns	Handguns
Permit to Purchase	No	No
Registration of Firearr	ns No	No
Licensing of Owners	No	No
Permit to Carry	No	No*
No permit necessary to carry concealed		

### STATE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION

"That the people have a right to bear arms for the defense of themselves and the State as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to and governed by the civil power." Chapter 1, Article 16.

### **PURCHASE**

No permit is required to purchase a rifle, shotgun, or handgun.

Dealers are required to keep a record of all handgun sales, and used handgun purchases. This record must include the date of the transaction, the marks of identification of the handgun, including manufacturer's name, caliber, model and serial number, the purchaser's or seller's name, address, birthplace, occupation, age, height, weight, and color of eyes and hair. The purchaser or seller shall sign his name to the record and the dealer

must keep such records in a book for six years after the date of the last entry and shall permit law enforcement officers to inspect the book at all reasonable times.

It is unlawful to sell or offer to sell a zip gun.

### **POSSESSION**

No state permit is required to possess a rifle, shotgun, or handgun.

It is unlawful for a child under 16, without consent of his parent or guardian, to possess or control a handgun.

It is unlawful to possess a zip gun. It is generally agreed that a zip gun is a crude homemade firearm.

### **CARRYING**

It is lawful to carry a firearm openly or concealed provided the firearm is not carried with the intent or avowed purpose of injuring a fellow man. It is unlawful to carry a firearm within any state institution or upon the grounds or lands owned or leased by such institution.

It is unlawful to carry or possess a firearm in a school bus or school building or on school property. The board of school directors may authorize the use of firearms for instructional purposes when facilities for such instruction are available.

It is unlawful to carry or possess a loaded rifle or shotgun in or on a motor vehicle within the right of way of a public highway. Exempt are law enforcement officers and hunters who are paraplegic or have a severe physical disability and have been issued a permit by the fish and game commissioner.

It is unlawful, without authorization from the court, to carry or possess a firearm while within a courthouse.

# ANTIQUES AND REPLICAS

Vermont laws are silent on the subject of antiques and replicas. However, an opinion of the Attorney General holds that handguns defined as antiques or replicas under the 1968 Gun Control Act need not be entered in the sales records as long as they do not fire conventional ammunition.

### **MACHINE GUNS**

It is lawful to possess, purchase, or sell a machine gun that is legally registered and possessed in compliance with all federal laws and regulations.

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

The possession, ownership, transfer, carrying, or registration or licensing of firearms or ammunition has been pre-emptied by state law.

It is unlawful to take or attempt to take a wild animal from a motorized vehicle or within then feet of the traveled portion of a public highway.

SOURCES: Vt. Stat. Ann. §§ 10-113-4705; 13-85-4003; 13-85-4004; 13-85-4006; 13-85-4008; 13-85-4013; 13-85-4016; 24-61-2295

CAUTION: Firearm laws are subject to frequent change and court interpretation. This summary is not intended as legal advice or restatement of law. This summary does not include federal or local laws, ordinances or regulations. For any particular situation, a licensed local attorney must be consulted for an accurate interpretation. YOU MUST ABIDE WITH ALL LAWS: STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL.

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