

Weapons Q & A (rev. 3-22-16)

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Q. How will SB174, if passed and signed by the Governor, change what happens on UA campuses?

A. If the Senate Education committee substitute (version N) becomes law, the Board of Regents' authority to regulate concealed carry of handguns and knives beyond existing law will be limited to these areas or situations:

- when the behavior of a student or an employee demonstrates that the student or employee poses a risk of harm to self or others
- in student dormitories or other shared living quarters;
- in parts of facilities where health services, counseling services, or other services related to sexual harassment or violence are provided;
- in parts of facilities where adjudication of staff or student disciplinary issues take place;
- in restricted access areas beyond secure points.

The proposed law ***only applies to the concealed carry of handguns and knives***. The University will continue to regulate the concealed carry of other weapons and the open carry of any weapon.

Q. How is the university administration trying to change this bill to keep campuses safe?

A. The university is seeking support for two additional amendments, as well as for the amendments incorporated so far. Early in the legislative process, it became apparent that the bill had broad support in the legislature. To make sure the university retained the ability to respond to specific critical situations, the university asked for 6 amendments to the current bill. Four have been incorporated in the current version of the bill:

1. (incorporated) When student or employee behavior indicates a risk of harm to themselves or others;
2. (incorporated) In student dormitories or other shared student living quarters;
3. (incorporated) In Health and Counseling, Discrimination, Harassment and Title IX offices;
4. (incorporated) During adjudication of staff or student disputes or disciplinary issues;

The university is seeking two additional amendments:

5. *In dedicated programs for K-12 students consistent with state law that generally criminalizes adult possession of weapons on K-12 grounds, buildings and events;*
6. *Requiring a concealed carry permit to carry concealed weapons on campus*

Q. Where can I find a copy of the bill?

A. <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/29?Root=SB%20174>

Q. How can voice my concern about this legislation?

A. This UA State Relations site has information about the process and advocacy needed for SB174. <http://www.alaska.edu/state/advocacy>. Remember – the amendments the university sought can be removed, so please support the existing amendments as well as the two additional amendments.

Q. What will happen if this legislation passes? Does the law become effective immediately?

A. The law will become effective ninety days after it is signed by the Governor. The Board of Regents will amend UA policy to conform to the law. UA leadership remains committed to maintaining a safe work and learning environment.

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Q. Who makes decisions about the university's campus carry policy? Under the circumstances, should those decisions be made now?

A. The University of Alaska Board of Regents is responsible for setting and amending the university's policies. At a special meeting March 25 the Regents will receive an update on SB174 and discuss possible related changes to UA's weapons policy. The possible changes would be consistent with the changes sought by the university to SB 174.

Q: If SB 174 passes, what does this legislation mean for the campuses? Who would be able to carry a weapon on campus property?

A: Alaska state law *as proposed in SB 174*, would allow anyone age 21 and above who can legally possess a handgun or knife to carry it concealed on and in University of Alaska properties and facilities, with some restrictions. The bill would allow the University to regulate open carry, and concealed carry in certain areas. ***The bill has not yet become law, so current policy and regulation remain in effect.***

Q. Would metal detectors be installed?

A. If the bill passes, the University will likely need to review its facilities to determine whether existing secured areas are adequate and whether additional secured areas are needed. Part of that review will look at methods to secure areas, including metal detectors and security guards.

Q. How much would this change cost the university?

A. Initially, the university estimates the cost would be about \$1.3 million to comply with the new law. The University expects that ongoing costs will be approximately \$800,000 per year.

Q. What is the current UA policy as directed by the Board of Regents?

A. The policy can be found at: <http://www.alaska.edu/bor/policy/02-09.pdf> Generally, firearms are permitted: at approved and supervised activities, including rifle ranges, gun shows, etc.; in cars located on streets or in parking lots; by faculty or staff in residences and by dormitory students in approved storage, and while transporting firearms directly to residences or dormitory storage locations; and on undeveloped and uninhabited university land.