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Exempt Action: Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Department of General Services
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	1VAC30-105-80(B)(6)
VAC Chapter title(s)	Regulations Prohibiting the Carrying of Firearms or Explosive Materials in Offices Owned or Occupied by Executive Branch Agencies
Action title	Amend Regulation after Enactment of Chapters 0644 and 0643 of the 2026 Acts of Assembly
Final agency action date	September 23, 2026
Date this document was prepared	September 23, 2026

This information is required for executive branch review pursuant to Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19. In addition, this information is required by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations pursuant to the Virginia Register Act (§ 2.2-4100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Regulations must conform to the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

Amend the existing regulation 1VAC30-105-80(B)(6), Regulations Prohibiting the Carrying of Firearms or Explosive Materials in Offices Owned or Occupied by Executive Branch Agencies; Exemptions, to include language provided in identical bills HB626 and SB272 of the 2026 General Assembly session found in the Code of Virginia § 18.2- 283.2 (E).

AGENCY ACTION

The Department of General Services (DGS) proposes that the following changes be made to the administrative code to match the language other Virginia state agencies use when cross-referencing the Code of Virginia.

Under state law, the Code of Virginia sets all firearms exemptions, while the regulations reflect and implement those statutory mandates. This amendment is a technical update ensuring that the regulatory language remains accurately aligned with the governing Code. This action will also set the stage for future statutory updates from the General Assembly.

1VAC30-105-80. Exemptions.

[REPEAL]

- A. ~~The provisions of this chapter do not apply to law enforcement officers, authorized security personnel, or military personnel, or fire marshals who have police powers when such individuals are authorized to carry a firearm in accordance with their duties and when such individuals are carrying the firearm within that authority. The provisions of this chapter also do not apply to any member of a cadet corps who is recognized by a public institution of higher education while such member is participating in an official ceremonial event for the Commonwealth.~~
- B. ~~The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following:~~
- ~~1. Any State Police officer who is off duty;~~
 - ~~2. Any retired State Police officer who has participated in annual firearms training and has qualified to the standards required of active law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth, in accordance with § [18.2-308.016](#) C of the Code of Virginia;~~
 - ~~3. Any retired law enforcement officer who has participated in annual firearms training, has qualified pursuant to § [18.2-308.016](#) C of the Code of Virginia, and is visiting a gun range owned or leased by the Commonwealth;~~
 - ~~4. Any of the following employees authorized to carry a firearm while acting in the conduct of such employee's official duties:~~
 - ~~a. A bail bondsman as defined in § [9.1-185](#) of the Code of Virginia;~~
 - ~~b. An employee of the Department of Corrections or a state juvenile correctional facility;~~
 - ~~c. An employee of the Department of Conservation and Recreation; or~~
 - ~~d. An employee of the Department of Wildlife Resources;~~
 - ~~5. Any individual carrying a weapon into a courthouse who is exempt under § [18.2-283.1](#) of the Code of Virginia;~~
 - ~~6. Any property owned or operated by a public institution of higher education;~~
 - ~~7. Any state park; or~~
 - ~~8. Any magistrate acting in the conduct of the magistrate's official duties.~~

1VAC30-105-80. Exemptions.

[ADD]

The exemptions set forth in the Code of Virginia § 18.2-283.2 shall be applied to the provisions of this chapter, mutatis mutandis.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined

in the ORM procedures, “a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part.”

Chapters 643 and 644 of the 2026 Acts of Assembly (HB626 – Delegate Callsen; SB272 – Senator Deeds) amend § [18.2-283.2](#) of the Code of Virginia.

This regulation amendment is exempt from the state administrative procedures for the adoption of regulations contained in Article 2 of the Administrative Process Act under § 2.2-4006(A)(4)(a) of the Code of Virginia because it is necessary to conform to changes in Virginia statutory law, where no agency discretion is involved.

The agency is authorized to establish regulations pursuant to § 2.2-1102(1) of the Code of Virginia.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) that the agency has “adopted final amendments” to the regulation; 3) the name of the agency taking the action; and 4) the title of the regulation. A suggested statement is, “On [insert date] the Board/Department of [insert name] adopted final amendments to the [title of regulation(s)].”

On September 23, 2026, the Department of General Services approved final amendments to Regulations Prohibiting the Carrying of Firearms or Explosive Materials in Offices Owned or Occupied by Executive Branch Agencies [1VAC30-105-80(B)(6)].

The regulatory action is to be effective as provided in the Administrative Process Act, requiring these amendments to be submitted to the Virginia Register for publication within 90 days of the effective date of the Act (July 1, 2026). In adopting these amendments, the Department of General Services affirms that these amendments conform to changes in Virginia statutory law.