



Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms

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May 29, 2025

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
One Ashburton Place, Room 2133
Boston, MA 02108

Attention John H. Melander, Jr.:

While the debate at hand is not whether or not compulsory training is constitutional, but rather the type of training that would satisfy a statutory requirement, it's important to preface our recommendation with our stance on the issue. On behalf of our members, we want to make it clear that we are not in favor of training mandates in order to exercise a constitutional right. Requiring training—live fire or otherwise—in order to purchase, own, and or carry a firearm is akin to needing a college degree in order to express one's own opinion or practice their religion.

There are no training mandates in order to exercise any other civil liberties enumerated by the U.S. Bill of Rights, and the Second Amendment should not be treated like a second class right.

That being said, please allow the following position statement of Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms be entered in the record on what would be an appropriate live fire requirement to be met for firearms licensure in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Since the Commonwealth is putting this burden on individual firearms trainers who will be assuming all the liability of working with neophyte handlers of firearms, the requirement of live fire training/qualification should be considered fulfilled at the discretion of the individual instructor. In order for an instructor to be able to certify that a license candidate has met the minimum requirements, an instructor must witness the candidate safely, properly, and independently load and fire one round of ammunition from any firearm, handgun, pistol, rifle, or shotgun. After an instructor has witnessed the safe and proficient firing of a rimfire, centerfire, or black powder round, they may certify that the candidate has fulfilled the live fire mandate.

Considering the Commonwealth's position that the liability of handling firearms with an individual more-than-likely unknown to the instructor falls on said instructor, this minimum requirement is more than generous considering what's being asked of them.

Again, we reiterate that these requirements are not constitutional, but since there will be a requirement regardless, the standard should be bare minimum. Anything above this standard will be at the peril and discretion of the individual trainer—their decision.

On behalf of our over 600,000 members across the nation, consider this our official position on this issue in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Cordially,

John Petrolino
Member of the Board of Directors
Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms