



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Department of State Police*



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*Firearms Compliance Unit*

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GEOFFREY D. NOBLE  
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Dear Certified Basic Firearms Safety Instructors:

As you are aware, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, § 131P, as amended, expanded the requirements for Basic Firearms Safety Course curricula. These requirements are effective April 2, 2026.

All Basic Firearms Safety (BFS) courses conducted on or after April 2, 2026 must include instruction on the following topics:

- Safe handling, use, and storage of firearms;
- Secure storage and childproofing methods;
- Applicable Massachusetts firearms laws (possession, transportation, storage);
- Firearm operation and safe manipulation;
- Suicide prevention and injury reduction education;
- Laws governing use of force in the Commonwealth;
- Disengagement and conflict avoidance tactics; and
- Live-fire training.

Please be advised, the Department is providing training materials (attached) on the following topics: Suicide prevention and injury reduction education, Laws governing use of force, and disengagement and conflict avoidance tactics.

All BFS instructors are invited to submit their curriculums for review and approval in advance of the April 2, 2026 effective date. Instructors should also submit a written examination for approval, consisting of 25 multiple choice questions addressing each topic of instruction.

Please submit your application, curriculum and examination to the Firearms Compliance Unit at [firearmscomplianceunit@pol.state.ma.us](mailto:firearmscomplianceunit@pol.state.ma.us).

At this time, regulations relative to the content of live-firing training have not been finalized. BFS instructors should still submit their curricula for approval, with the understanding that each course will be re-evaluated for compliance with the live fire regulations once they are promulgated.

The Firearms Compliance Unit members look forward to working with all of you.

Sincerely,

*Paul J. Burns Jr.*

Sergeant Paul J. Burns Jr.  
Firearms Compliance Unit