

Addendum 2

HB 875, Firearms & Weapons: Allow in Government Buildings; Allow Civil Actions against Cities

Municipal
Impact



GMA Position:	Oppose
Last Updated:	2/7/2014
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Related Bills:	
Subject Area:	Public Safety Municipal Powers
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HB 875 is a comprehensive firearms bill which has four areas directly related to the operations of a municipality:

1. The legislation would allow persons with valid firearms licenses to enter government buildings if those structures are not restricted or screened by security during the hours the building is open for business.
2. The preemptions currently in place restricting city ordinances regulating firearms would be extended to preempt city's from regulating weapons, including knives, bats, nun chucks, throwing stars, stun guns, and tasers.
3. The power of city governing authorities to regulate the transport, carrying, or possession of firearms by employees of the city in the course of their employment would be limited by providing that the chief of police would have such authority over employees under his or her supervision.
4. Any person will be entitled to bring an action against a city if such person feels that the city has regulated firearms or weapons beyond the scope allowed under state law. The person would be entitled to attorneys' fees and expenses of litigation.

HB 875 would also lift the prohibitions on carrying weapons, including firearms, into public housing by permitted individuals and eliminate the prohibition of persons convicted of pointing a firearm at another person from obtaining a weapons carry license. Additionally, the legislation would allow boards of education to authorize school personnel to carry firearms at schools, define the training required, and set rules on how such firearms must be stored while on school grounds.

GMA Policy on Firearms on Public Property

GMA is opposed to legislation that interferes with the ability of municipal officials to craft policies

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governing whether firearms may be brought into municipal buildings or into municipal governmental proceedings, judicial proceedings and public meetings. GMA supports municipal law enforcement and believes that criminal laws are best enforced by properly trained law enforcement personnel.