

Carrying Tasers and Other Electronic Defense Weapons

By: George Miles, Associate Legislative Attorney
October 3, 2022 | 2022-R-0223

Issue

Summarize Connecticut statutes governing the carrying of electronic defense weapons, such as stun guns.

Summary

By law, an electronic defense weapon is defined as one capable of temporarily immobilizing a person through the use of an electronic impulse or current. Stun guns and other conductive energy devices are designated as specific types of electronic defense weapons ([CGS § 53a-3\(20\)](#)), as amended by [PA 21-31](#)). (Taser is a product brand name and specific type of electronic defense weapon.)

Under Connecticut state statutes, it is generally illegal for anyone to carry electronic defense weapons on their person or in any vehicle ([CGS §§ 29-38\(a\)](#), as amended by [PA 21-31](#), & [53-206\(a\)](#), as amended by [PA 21-31](#)). However, there are two exemptions to this general rule that allows them to be carried. Specifically, for (1) officers who are charged with the preservation of the public peace and engaged in their official duties and (2) individuals age 21 and older if they possess a valid firearm credential (i.e., a handgun or long gun eligibility certificate, permit to carry or sell handguns, or ammunition certificate) ([CGS §§ 29-38\(b\)](#), as amended by [PA 21-31](#), & [53-206\(b\)](#), as amended by [PA 21-31](#)).

Unless an exemption applies, carrying an electronic defense weapon is a (1) class D felony if knowingly carried in a motor vehicle and (2) class E felony if carried on a person ([CGS §§ 29-38\(a\)](#)),

as amended by [PA 21-31](#), & [53-206\(a\)](#), as amended by [PA 21-31](#)) (see Table on Penalties, most recently published as OLR Report [2022-R-0143](#)). (There are other penalties associated with electronic defense weapons, specifically if they are (1) criminally used ([CGS § 53a-216](#)); (2) criminally possessed ([CGS § 53a-217](#), as amended by [PA 21-67](#)); or illegally sold or transferred ([PA 21-31](#), § 3, codified as CGS § 53-206k).)

GM:co