

QUESTION FROM ATA MEMBER:

From: Melissa Foley Riley <cldazize@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:23 AM

To: Mingo, Ryan T. (AGO) <Ryan.T.Mingo@mass.gov>

Subject: AIM4NH Question pertaining to MA C.135 law for Non-Resident Youth

Dear Ryan Mingo

My name is Melissa Foley-Riley and I am the AIM NH State Director.

AIM is the youth division of the Amateur Trap Association.

The NH4AIM Team [requires] all AIM4NH youth [to] attend an NRA Basic Shotgun clinic and pass in order to be on the team. Each AIM4NH member is then enrolled in an NRA Marksmanship program.

With the New MA C.135 law on the books, athletes are being restricted and we as the administration, coaches and parents are attempting to stay within the law and comply, all while supporting the youth shooting sports.

Those in the Northeast already contend with a short season due to inclement weather conditions. The new MA C.135 gun law, prevents the athletes from obtaining enough registered targets for All American and Higher Level accolades because most of the registered events are hosted in Massachusetts. The youth programs here in the New England area are the feeder programs to youth making the Jr Olympics / USA Olympics and representing the USA and their home states here in the Northeast.

Programs [affected] by C.135:

AIM ~ <https://www.aim4ata.com/>

Scholastic Clay Target Program ~ <https://mysctp.com/about/>

USA High School Clay Target League ~ <https://highschool.usaclaytarget.com/>

Please help our organizations be in compliance by explaining what we need to do to legally enter the State of Massachusetts to compete in events such as Trap/Skeet/Sporting clay.

Most youth compete with semi-automatic shotguns due to cost, and have lesser recoil on the athlete. This are the same reasons that the seniors and veterans also use semiautomatic shotguns.

Could you please provide clarification on [a] Non-Resident traveling into the state for competitive purposes? We understand that those traveling in must have an LTC for the possession of semi-automatic guns, but what else do we need to do?

I am aware of the exemption for possessing non-semi-automatic rifles and shotguns but believe the Colonel of the MA State Police must 1st post a list of eligible states in order to meet the requirements for that exemption. Has that been done?

What is the process for registration for non-Resident firearms? In addition, what will the cost be per firearm?

If a parent does not have an LTC in MA but their student is on a competitive shotgun team - what is the legal requirement for the coach to transport the athlete's firearm - they legally do not own the firearm and legally should not register the firearm as theirs on the MA registration site. How would we handle that situation?

Are there different rules and do the parents still need an LTC to transport a shotgun that is in its disassembled state for an over/under shotgun?

As a parent of an athlete that has witnessed her daughter be the first to represent her home state of New Hampshire in Sparta Illinois and Marengo Ohio, this is truly heartbreaking. It also hinders those chasing their dream to be the next Jr Olympic or Olympic Gold Medalist in the shooting sports.

These youth are not committing crimes; they are the ones being legally educated and expanding their knowledge of the law and supporting the law enforcement by hosting events such as "Badges and Barrels" to show the law enforcement and youth working in a positive manner.

AIM4NH hosts an annual charity event with New Hampshire Fish and Game Conservation Officers. Community policing 101 building a stronger bond with the citizens living in their area.

We are currently working on 2025.

We would love to invite you to this year's event so you can see firsthand what C.135 could potential take away from the youth.

Sincerely
Melissa Foley-Riley
Mother to Hailey Riley
AIM4NH President
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RESPONSE FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR & ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL:

From: "Mingo, Ryan T. (AGO)" <Ryan.T.Mingo@mass.gov>
Date: February 14, 2025 at 4:09:52 PM EST
To: Melissa Foley Riley <cldazize@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: AIM4NH Question pertaining to MA C.135 law for Non-Resident Youth

Thanks very much for reaching out, Ms. Foley-Riley. I appreciate your efforts to ensure that your athletes, coaches, and parents are meeting the requirements of Massachusetts law when joining us for competitions.

There are a few provisions of the 2024 Act Modernizing Firearms Laws that I think you would find relevant.

First, under M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 19C(j), "**A nonresident who is at least 18 years of age may possess rifles and shotguns that are not large capacity or semi-automatic and ammunition therefor:** (i) to hunt during hunting season with a nonresident hunting license or a hunting license or permit lawfully issued from their state of residence, which has substantially similar requirements to those in section 11 of chapter 131, as determined by the colonel of the state police pursuant to subsection (l); **(ii) while on a firing or shooting range; (iii) while traveling in or through the commonwealth; provided, that the rifles and shotguns that are not large capacity or semi-automatic shall be unloaded and in a locked container pursuant to sections 131C and 131L;** or (iv) while at a firearm showing or display organized by a regularly existing gun collectors' club or association."

In order to possess a semi-automatic firearm, an individual must possess a license to carry, whether a resident or a nonresident.

Second, under Section 129C(g) of Chapter 140, "[a] person may furnish a minor or person under 21 years of age with a firearm and ammunition for hunting, instruction, recreation and participation in shooting sports provided that the person furnishing the firearm and ammunition holds the appropriate license, permit or card" This provision encompasses both residents and nonresidents. It does not require that the license holder furnishing the weapon be the owner of the weapon furnished.

Finally, the registration requirements of the updated law do not take effect until October 2026 due to the need to develop a system for registration, so you do not need to worry about that at this point. Please keep an eye on the website for the [Firearms Records Bureau](#), which handles licensing and registration records, for more guidance as the effective date approaches.

I hope this email is helpful and that you, Hailey, and the members of your organization continue to safely and responsibly enjoy shooting sports throughout New England. Please let me know if there is anything else I can help with.

Thanks,
Ryan

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