



Massachusetts Firearms Law

LICENSING LEVELS

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has in 2020 simplified its licensing scheme. Although these are state licenses, they are issues at the discretion of the local police chief. A summary of the Massachusetts residents licensing levels is provided below:

Firearms Identification (FID) Card

Term – 6 years

Cost: Age under 18 → \$25 Age 18-70 → \$100 Age over 70 → \$0

Training required: *Massachusetts State Police Basic Firearms Safety Certificate*

Allows:

- Purchase and possession of defensive/OC spray a.k.a. pepper spray (under 18 years of age. Older than 18 does not require a license)
- Purchase and possession of non-large capacity rifles and shotguns
- Purchase and possession of ammunition

License to Carry (LTC)

Term – 6 years

Must be 21 or older

Cost: Age 21-70 → \$100 Age over 70 → \$0

Training required: *Massachusetts State Police Basic Firearms Safety Certificate*

Allows:

- The purchase, possession and carrying of all handguns, rifles and shotguns, including large capacity which are legal to possess in the Commonwealth. This is the only license which allows the holder to carry a loaded firearm on his/her person
- Purchase and possession of ammunition
- At the discretion of the local police chief (issuing authority) an **LTC can have restrictions** placed on it to limit the licensee and to exclude the carrying of a firearm on his/her person
- There are specific places where carrying a loaded firearm is prohibited even for the holder of an LTC

Notes:

1. The *Massachusetts State Police Basic Firearms Safety Certificate* is issued upon completion of an approved course such as the *NRA Home Firearm Safety* course, the *Massachusetts Hunter Education* course and others.
2. A national background check is performed during the application process.
3. There are disqualifiers for issuance of an FID card and additional disqualifiers for an LTC, including felony convictions and more. The standards for issuance of an LTC are more stringent than for an FID card.
4. Prior to 2014, the LTC was issued as Class A or B with Class A being unrestricted and Class B being restricted. These licenses still exist, and all will be renewed as the newer, simpler LTC by the end of 2020.
5. Any denial can be appealed.