



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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GINA K. KWON  
Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Firearms Licensing Authorities  
FROM: Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
DATE: March 26, 2026  
RE: New Basic Firearms Safety Courses

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As you know, Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024, *An Act Modernizing Firearm Laws* (Act), took effect on October 2, 2024. The Act expanded the requirements for Basic Firearms Safety Course curricula, set forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, § 131P. 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 Massachusetts State Police (MSP) Firearms Compliance Unit created training materials (attached) on the following topics: suicide prevention and injury reduction education, laws governing use of force, and disengagement and conflict avoidance tactics. These materials were provided to Firearms Instructors and are available to anyone wishing to update a BFS course.

The MSP Firearms Compliance Unit invited BFS instructors to submit updated courses for review and approval in advance of April 2, 2026. As of today, MSP has received numerous courses and is in the process of certifying these curricula for inclusion on MSP's list of approved BFS courses.

MSP will have several courses approved by April 2, 2026 that meet the new requirements. The updated course list may be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/firearms-safety-instructors-certification-program>.

For licensing purposes, please be advised that if an applicant completed a BFS course prior to April 2, 2026, their certificate of completion should be accepted and processed in the ordinary course, even if the application is submitted after April 2, 2026. The same holds true for applicants who applied but have yet to be processed (i.e. received a decision to issue a license or denied). Stated another way, the new course requirements are only applicable to applicants who take a BFS course after April 2, 2026. Please note, the additional training components discussed herein are the same topics required for anyone who obtained their first FID/LTC after August 1, 2024 and prior to April 2, 2026.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, regulations related to the content of live-firing training have not been finalized. Until regulations are promulgated and live fire is fully implemented, live fire does not need to be included in a BFS course. We will provide further updates on this as we move into the public hearing phase of the regulatory process.

We look forward to working with you all as we continue to implement this sweeping legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Firearms Compliance Unit at [firearmscomplianceunit@pol.state.ma.us](mailto:firearmscomplianceunit@pol.state.ma.us). The EOPSS legal team is also available to assist you and answer any questions that may arise.

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<sup>1</sup> These individuals will have to complete a supplemental online course developed and provided by the MSP prior to renewing their LTC or FID card.