Committee Name: Academic Affairs  
Date: September 8, 2023 

Agenda Item: Revision to Ordinance 18.00, Firearms or Weapons 

Resolution: 
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby amends University Ordinance 18.00, Firearms or Weapons, as shown in Exhibit A hereto attached.  

Recommendation: 
The Trustee Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Board of Trustees adopts the proposed revisions to Ordinance 18.00.  

Prior Action by BOT: 
Ordinance 18.00 was most recently amended on June 19, 2009  

Responsible Officers: 
Vice President and Chief Safety Officer 

Summary: 
Ordinance 18.00 is being revised to provide clarity to the university’s prohibition of the possession and use of firearms and weapons on property governed by the Board of Trustees. The ordinance revisions provide that such prohibitions apply to all individuals present on property governed by the Board of Trustees. Ordinance revisions take immediate applicable effect upon passage by the Board of Trustees. The exceptions for those areas specifically set aside and supervised at range facilities or part of the regular education process and for Police Officers and other legally established law enforcement officers remain unchanged. The ordinance revisions add an exception for individuals fully qualified to carry a
concealed weapon under Michigan law, while such individual is operating a motor vehicle on a road owned by the Board and such individual remains in the vehicle.

Background Information:
Given recent legal precedent on the ability of Michigan higher education institutions to regulate the possession and use of firearms and weapons on property governed by said higher education institutions, this revision to Ordinance 18.00 clarifies and brings consistency to the application of this ordinance to all individuals who reside, work, or come onto property governed by the Board of Trustees for any purpose unless an enumerated exception applies.

Source of Funds:
There are no anticipated impacts on sources of funds.

Resource Impact:
There are no anticipated impacts on university financial resources.
18.00 FIREARMS OR WEAPONS

18.01 Possession and use prohibited
18.02 Firearms Exceptions
18.03 Use of chemicals prohibited
18.04 Relationship to University policy

.01 The possession or use of any firearm or weapon is prohibited upon property governed by the Board. Persons residing on property governed by the Board shall store any and all firearms and weapons with the Department of Police and Public Safety.

.02 The prohibition in Section 18.01 does not apply:

.021 to police officers and other legally established law enforcement officers;

.022 at the discretion of [Vice President and Chief Safety Officer or Police Chief], to individuals authorized by their employer and licensed to possess and use such device while engaged in performing work requiring such device;

.023 to individuals fully qualified to carry a concealed weapon under Michigan law, while such individual is operating a motor vehicle on a road owned by the Board and such individual remains in the vehicle;

.024 to those areas specifically set aside and supervised at range facilities;

.025 to unloaded firearms used as part of a regular educational or ceremonial process;

.026 to those areas where firearms are permitted under Ordinance 37.02.

.03 No person shall possess any chemical, biological, radioactive, or other dangerous substance or compound, with the intent of using the same to injure, molest, or coerce another, anywhere upon property governed by the Board.

.04 This ordinance does not alter the terms of any University policies that regulate the use or possession of firearms.

Enacted: September 15, 1964
Amended: December 11, 1987
December 10, 1994
April 14, 1995
April 12, 2002
June 19, 2009
18.00 FIREARMS OR WEAPONS

18.01 Possession and use prohibited; exceptions

18.02 Firearms Exceptions

18.021 Use of chemicals prohibited

18.03 Use prohibited; exceptions

18.04 Not applicable to police officers

18.05 Relationship to University policy

.01 Except as permitted by state law regulating firearms, no person shall possess any firearm or weapon anywhere upon property governed by the Board. The possession or use of any firearm or weapon is prohibited upon property governed by the Board. Persons residing on property governed by the Board shall store any and all firearms and weapons with the Department of Police and Public Safety.

.02 The prohibition in Section 18.01 does not apply:

.021 to police officers and other legally established law enforcement officers;

.022 at the discretion of [Vice President and Chief Safety Officer or Police Chief], to individuals authorized by their employer and licensed to possess and use such device while engaged in performing work requiring such device;

.023 to individuals fully qualified to carry a concealed weapon under Michigan law, while such individual is operating a motor vehicle on a road owned by the Board and such individual remains in the vehicle;

.024 to except those areas specifically set aside and supervised at range facilities;

.025 or as to unloaded firearms used as part of the regular educational or ceremonial process;

.026 or to those areas where firearms are permitted under as outlined in Ordinance 37.02 and its subsections. Persons residing on property governed by the Board shall store any and all firearms and weapons with the Department of Police and Public Safety.

.01.03 No person shall possess any chemical, biological, radioactive, or other dangerous substance or compound, with the intent of using the same to injure, molest, or coerce another, anywhere upon property governed by the Board.

The use of any firearm or weapon is prohibited upon property governed by the Board except those areas specifically set aside and supervised at range facilities, or as part of the regular education process, or as outlined in Ordinance 37.02 and its subsections.

This ordinance shall not apply to Police Officers and other legally established law enforcement officers.

.02.04 This ordinance does not alter the terms of any University policies that regulate the use or possession of firearms.

Enacted: September 15, 1964
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