
STUDENT MATERIALS

A HISTORY OF STATE CONSTITUTIONAL ARMS- BEARING PROVISIONS

Today, 45 of the 50 states have a constitutional right to arms. Over time, the general trend has been in favor of such provisions. For example, since 1875, 13 new states have joined the union, and 12 of them included right-to-arms provisions in their original constitutions. The one post-1875 state without such a right (North Dakota) later added one. Since 1978, 16 states have added or strengthened right-to-arms provisions.

The evolution of state arms rights from 1776 to the present provides an overview of national and regional moods about the right to bear arms. For more information on the material in this section, see Eugene Volokh, *State Constitutional Rights to Keep and Bear Arms*, 11 Tex. Rev. L. & Pol. 191 (2006) (cataloguing all state right to arms provisions); David B. Kopel, *What State Constitutions Teach about the Second Amendment*, 29 N. Ky. L. Rev. 827 (2002).

Thirty-seven state constitutions explicitly guarantee a right of self-defense, and some also guarantee the right to defend property. Sometimes self-defense is part of the “right to arms” provision, but it is often separately enumerated. A standard form of separate enumeration is from Article I of the 1788 Massachusetts Constitution, a classic and widely copied statement of natural rights: “All people are born free and equal and have certain natural, essential and unalienable rights; among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; that of acquiring, possessing and protecting property; in fine, that of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness.” Colorado’s 1876 Constitution exemplifies the wording changes that were typical as English usage changed: “All persons have certain natural, essential and inalienable rights, among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; of acquiring, possessing and protecting property; and of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness.” Colo. Const. Art. II, § 3.

The table below provides the full text of all the state constitutional right-to-arms guarantees, but not all the self-defense guarantees. For the full text of the separate provisions on self-defense, see Eugene Volokh, *State*

Constitutional Rights of Self-Defense and Defense of Property, 11 Tex. Rev. L. & Pol. 399 (2007).

Most state constitutions have separate, and extensive, provisions regarding the militia, often consuming an entire Article. They may also have language about conscientious objectors, standing armies, or other military forces. Such provisions are not reproduced below, except for militia language that appears within the right-to-arms guarantee. Provisions currently in effect are in bold.

Asterisks indicate states that joined the Confederate States of America and consequently had to adopt new constitutions after being readmitted to the Union (except for Tennessee, which rejoined the Union before this mandate was imposed). States are listed in order of ratification of the Constitution (for the original 13 states), and in order of joining the union for the rest.

Date of Statehood	State	Constitutional Provision and Year of Enactment
1787	DE	Del. Const. of 1897, art. I, § 20 (as amended in 1987): “A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting and recreational use.”
1787	PA	Pa. Const. of 1968, art. I, § 21: “The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned.” Pa. Const. of 1874, art. I, § 21: Retained 1790 provision. Pa. Const. of 1838, art. IX, § 21: Retained 1790 provision. Pa. Const. of 1790, art. IX, § 21: “That the right of the citizens to bear arms in defence of themselves, and the State shall not be questioned.” Pa. Const. of 1776, art. XIII: “[T]he people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the state; and as standing armies in the time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; And that the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.”
1787	NJ	No right to arms guarantee.
1788	GA*	Ga. Const. of 1983, art. I, § I, para. VIII: Retained 1877 provision; unaffected by subsequent amendments. Ga. Const. of 1976, art. I, § I, para. V: Retained 1877 provision. Ga. Const. of 1945, art. I, § I, para. XXII: Retained 1877 provision.

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		Ga. Const. of 1877, art. I, § I, para. XXII: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed, but the General Assembly shall have power to prescribe the manner in which arms may be borne." Ga. Const. of 1868, art. I, § 14: "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free people, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; but the general assembly shall have power to prescribe by law the manner in which arms may be borne." Ga. Const. of 1865, art. I, § 4: "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."
1788	CT	Conn. Const. of 1818, art. I, § 17: "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the State."
1788	MA	Mass. Const. of 1780, pt. 1, art. XVII: "The people have a right to keep and to bear arms for the common defence. And as in time of peace, armies are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be maintained without the consent of the legislature; and the military power shall always be held in an exact subordination to the civil authority, and be governed by it."
1788	MD	No right to arms guarantee.
1788	SC*	S.C. Const. of 1895, art. I, § 20: "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. As in times of peace armies are dangerous to liberty, they shall not be maintained without the consent of the General Assembly. The military power of the State shall always be held in subordination to the civil authority and be governed by it." S.C. Const. of 1868, art. I, § 28: "The people have a right to keep and bear arms for the common defence. As, in times of peace, armies are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be maintained without the consent of the general assembly. The military power ought always to

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		be held in an exact subordination to the civil authority, and be governed by it.”
1788	NH	N.H. Const. of 1784, art. 2-a (as amended in 1982): “All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state.”
1788	VA*	Va. Const. of 1971, art. I, § 13: “[A] well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.” Va. Const. of 1902, art. I, § 13: Retained 1776 provision. Va. Const. of 1870, art. I, § 15: Retained 1776 provision. Va. Const. of 1864, art. I, § 13: Retained 1776 provision. Va. Const. of 1850, art. I, § 13: Retained 1776 provision. Va. Const. of 1830, art. I, § 13: Retained 1776 provision. Va. Const. of 1776, Bill of Rights, § 13: “[A] well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defence of a free State; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided, as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.”
1788	NY	No right-to-arms guarantee in the Constitution. However, the Civil Rights Law, a statute enacted in 1909, states that “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms cannot be infringed.” N.Y. Civ. Rights Law § 4.
1789	NC*	N.C. Const. of 1971, art. I, § 30: “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; and, as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they shall not be maintained, and the military shall be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power. Nothing herein

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		shall justify the practice of carrying concealed weapons, or prevent the General Assembly from enacting penal statutes against that practice.”
		N.C. Const. of 1876, art. I, § 24: “A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; and, as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up, and the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power. Nothing herein contained shall justify the practice of carrying concealed weapons, or prevent the Legislature from enacting penal statutes against said practice.”
		N.C. Const. of 1868, art. I, § 24: “A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; and as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up, and the military should be kept under strict subordination to and governed by the civil power.”
		N.C. Const. of 1776, A Declaration of Rights, art. XVII: “[T]he people have a right to bear arms, for the defence of the State; and, as standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.”
1790	RI	R.I. Const. of 1987, art. I, § 22: Retained 1842 provision. R.I. Const. of 1842, art. I, § 22: “The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”
1791	VT	Vt. Const. of 1793, ch. I, art. 16: Retained 1786 provision. Vt. Const. of 1786, ch. I, art. XVIII: “[T]he people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the State—and as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to and governed by the civil power.” Vt. Const. of 1777, ch. I, art. XV (adopted while Vermont was an independent republic): “That the people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and

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		the State; and, as standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to and governed by the civil power.”
1792	KY	Ky. Const. of 1891, § 1: “All men are, by nature, free and equal, and have certain inherent and inalienable rights, among which may be reckoned: . . . The right to bear arms in defense of themselves and of the State, subject to the power of the General Assembly to enact laws to prevent persons from carrying concealed weapons.” Ky. Const. of 1850, art. XIII, § 25: “[T]he rights of the citizens to bear arms in defence of themselves and the State shall not be questioned; but the general assembly may pass laws to prevent persons from carrying concealed arms.” Ky. Const. of 1799, art. X, § 23: Retained 1792 provision. Ky. Const. of 1792, art. XII, § 23: “[T]he right of the citizens to bear arms in defence of themselves and the State shall not be questioned.”
1796	TN*	Tenn. Const. of 1870, art. I, § 26: “[T]he citizens of this State have a right to keep and to bear arms for their common defense; but the Legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms with a view to prevent crime.” Tenn. Const. of 1834, art. I, § 26: “[T]he free white men of this State have a right to keep and to bear arms for their common defence.” Tenn. Const. of 1796, art. XI, § 26: “[T]he freemen of this State have a right to keep and to bear arms for their common defence.”
1803	OH	Ohio Const. of 1851, art. I, § 4: “The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security; but standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, and shall not be kept up; and the military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power.” Ohio Const. of 1802, art. VIII, § 20: “[T]he people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the State; and as standing armies, in time of peace, are

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		dangerous to liberty, they shall not be kept up, and that the military shall be kept under strict subordination to the civil power.”
1812	LA*	La. Const. of 1974, art. I, § 11 (as amended in 2012): “The right of each citizen to keep and bear arms is fundamental and shall not be infringed. Any restriction of this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny.” La. Const. of 1974, art. I, § 11: “The right of each citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be abridged, but this provision shall not prevent the passage of laws to prohibit the carrying of weapons concealed on the person.” La. Const. of 1879, art. 3: “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be abridged. This shall not prevent the passage of laws to punish those who carry weapons concealed.”
1816	IN	Ind. Const. of 1851, art. I, § 32: “The people shall have a right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State.” Ind. Const. of 1816, Art. I, § 20: “[T]he people have a right to bear arms for the defense of themselves and the State, and that the military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power.”
1817	MS*	Miss. Const. of 1890, art. 3, § 12: “The right of every citizen to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person or property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall not be called in question, but the legislature may regulate or forbid carrying concealed weapons.” Miss. Const. of 1868, art. I, § 15: “All persons shall have a right to keep and bear arms for their defence.” Miss. Const. of 1832, art. I, § 23: Retained 1817 provision. Miss. Const. of 1817, art. I, § 23: “Every citizen has a right to bear arms, in defence of himself and the State.”

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1818	IL	Ill. Const. of 1970, art. I, § 22: “Subject only to the police power, the right of the individual citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”
1819	AL*	Ala. Const. of 1901, art. I, § 26 (as amended 2014): “(a) Every citizen has a fundamental right to bear arms in defense of himself or herself and the state. Any restriction on this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny. (b) No citizen shall be compelled by any international treaty or international law to take an action that prohibits, limits, or otherwise interferes with his or her fundamental right to keep and bear arms in defense of himself or herself and the state, if such treaty or law, or its adoption, violates the United States Constitution.” Ala. Const. of 1901, art. I, § 26: Retained the 1865 provision. Ala. Const. of 1875, art. I, § 27: Retained the 1865 provision. Ala. Const. of 1865, art. I, § 27: “That every citizen has a right to bear arms in defence of himself and the State.” Ala. Const. of 1861, art. I, § 23: Retained 1819 provision. Ala. Const. of 1819, art. I, § 23: “Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defence of himself and the State.”
1820	ME	Me. Const. of 1819, art. I, § 16 (as amended in 1987): “Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned.” Me. Const. of 1819, art. I, § 16: “Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms for the common defence; and this right shall never be questioned.”
1821	MO	Mo. Const. of 1945, art. I, § 23 (as amended 2014): “That the right of every citizen to keep and bear arms, ammunition, and accessories typical to the normal function of such arms, in defense of his home, person, family and property, or when lawfully summoned in aid of the civil power, shall not be questioned. The rights guaranteed by this section shall be unalienable. Any restriction on these rights shall be subject to strict scrutiny and the state of Missouri shall be obligated to

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uphold these rights and shall under no circumstances decline to protect against their infringement. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the general assembly from enacting general laws which limit the rights of convicted violent felons or those adjudicated by a court to be a danger to self or others as result of a mental disorder or mental infirmity.”

Mo. Const. of 1945, art. I, § 23: “[T]he right of every citizen to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property, or when lawfully summoned in aid of the civil power, shall not be questioned; but this shall not justify the wearing of concealed weapons.”

Mo. Const. of 1875, art. II, § 17: “[T]he right of no citizen to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property, or in aid of the civil power, when thereto legally summoned, shall be called in question; but nothing herein contained is intended to justify the practice of wearing concealed weapons.”

Mo. Const. of 1865, art. I, § 8: “[T]he people have the right peaceably to assemble for their common good, and to apply to those vested with the powers of government for redress of grievances by petition or remonstrance; and that their right to bear arms in defence of themselves and of the lawful authority of the State cannot be questioned.”

Mo. Const. of 1820, art. XIII, § 3: “[T]he people have the right peaceably to assemble for their common good, and to apply to those vested with the powers of government for redress of grievances by petition or remonstrance; and that their right to bear arms in defence of themselves and of the State cannot be questioned.”

1836

AR*

Ark. Const. of 1874, art. I, § 5: Retained 1868 provision.

Ark. Const. of 1868, art. I, § 5: “The citizens of this State shall have the right to keep and bear arms for their common defence.”

Ark. Const. of 1864, art. II, § 21: Retained 1836 provision.

Ark. Const. of 1861, art. II, § 21: Retained 1836 provision.

Ark. Const. of 1836, art. II, § 21: “[T]he free white men of this State shall have a right to keep and to bear arms for their common defence.”

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1837	MI	Mich. Const. of 1968, art. I, § 6: Retained 1835 provision. Mich. Const. of 1908, art. II, § 5: Retained 1835 provision. Mich. Const. of 1850, art. VXIII, § 7: Retained 1835 provision. Mich. Const. of 1835, art. I, § 13: “Every person has a right to bear arms for the defence of himself and the State.”
1845	FL*	Fla. Const. of 1968, art. I, § 8 (subsections (b)-(d) added in 1990): “(a) The right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the state shall not be infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law. (b) There shall be a mandatory period of three days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, between the purchase and delivery at retail of any handgun. For the purposes of this section, ‘purchase’ means the transfer of money or other valuable consideration to the retailer, and ‘handgun’ means a firearm capable of being carried and used by one hand, such as a pistol or revolver. Holders of a concealed weapon permit as prescribed in Florida law shall not be subject to the provisions of this paragraph. (c) The legislature shall enact legislation implementing subsection (b) of this section, effective no later than December 31, 1991, which shall provide that anyone violating the provisions of subsection (b) shall be guilty of a felony. (d) This restriction shall not apply to a trade in of another handgun.” Fla. Const. of 1968, art. I, § 8: “The right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the state shall not be infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law.” Fla. Const. of 1885, art. I, § 20: “The right of the people to bear arms in defence of themselves and the lawful authority of the State, shall not be infringed, but the Legislature may prescribe the manner in which they may be borne.”

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		Fla. Const. of 1868, art. I, § 22: “The people shall have the right to bear arms in defence of themselves and of the lawful authority of the State.” (In 1865, a postbellum convention drew up a constitution that did not include an arms-bearing provision. This constitution was never submitted to the people for ratification, and it was rejected by the Reconstruction U.S. Congress, which put Florida under military rule. It was replaced by the fully effective 1868 constitution.) Fla. Const. of 1838, art. I, § 21: “[T]he free white men of this State shall have a right to keep and to bear arms for their common defence.”
1845	TX*	Tex. Const. of 1876, art. I, § 23: “Every citizen shall have the right to keep and bear arms in the lawful defence of himself or the State; but the legislature shall have power by law to regulate the wearing of arms with a view to prevent crime.” Tex. Const. of 1868, art. I, § 13: “Every person shall have the right to keep and bear arms, in the lawful defence of himself or the State, under such regulations as the legislature may prescribe.” Tex. Const. of 1866, art. I, § 13: Retained 1845 provision. Tex. Const. of 1845, art. I, § 13: “Every citizen shall have the right to keep and bear arms in the lawful defence of himself or the State.” Tex. Const. of 1836, Declaration of Rights, § 14 (adopted while Texas was an independent republic): “Every citizen shall have the right to bear arms in defence of himself and the republic. The military shall at all times and in all cases be subordinate to the civil power.”
1846	IA	Iowa Const. art. I, § 1A (as amended in 2022): The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The sovereign state of Iowa affirms and recognizes this right to be a fundamental individual right. Any and all restrictions of this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny.
1848	WI	Wis. Const. of 1848, art. I, § 25 (as amended in 1998): “The people have the right to keep and bear arms for

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		security, defense, hunting, recreation or any other lawful purpose.”
1850	CA	No right-to-arms guarantee.
1858	MN	No right-to-arms guarantee.
1859	OR	Or. Const. of 1857, art. I, § 8 (amended so that provision is presently in § 27): “The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the State, but the military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power.”
1861	KS	Kan. Const. of 1859, Bill of Rights, § 4 (as amended in 2010): “A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and state, for lawful hunting and recreational use, and for any other lawful purpose.” Kan. Const. of 1859, Bill of Rights, § 4: “The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security; but standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, and shall not be tolerated, and the military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power.” Kan. Const. of 1858, art. I, § 4: Retained/reinstated 1855 provision. Kan. Const. of 1857, Bill of Rights, § 19: “[T]he citizens of this State shall have a right to keep and bear arms for their common defence.” (There is a debate over whether this “Lecompton Constitution,” which contained pro-slavery language, and was intended to replace the anti-slavery 1855 Topeka Constitution, was ever legally in effect. There was no controversy related to the arms-bearing provision.) Kan. Const. of 1855, art. I, § 4: “The people have the right to bear arms for their defence and security; but standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty and shall not be kept up; and the military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power.”
1863	WV	W. Va. Const. of 1872, art. III, § 22 (as amended in 1986): “A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and state, and for lawful hunting and recreational use.”

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1864	NV	Nev. Const. of 1864, § 11(1) (as amended in 1982) “Every citizen has the right to keep and bear arms for security and defense, for lawful hunting and recreational use and for other lawful purposes.”
1867	NE	Neb. Const. of 1875, art. I, § 1 (as amended in 1988): “All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain inherent and inalienable rights; among these are life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the right to keep and bear arms for security or defense of self, family, home, and others, and for lawful common defense, hunting, recreational use, and all other lawful purposes, and such rights shall not be denied or infringed by the state or any subdivision thereof. To secure these rights, and the protection of property, governments are instituted among people, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”
1876	CO	Colo. Const. of 1876, art. II, § 13: “[T]he right of no person to keep and bear arms in defence of his home, person, and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall be called in question; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to justify the practice of carrying concealed weapons.”
1889	ND	N.D. Const. of 1889, art. I, § 1 (as amended in 1984): “All individuals are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation; pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness; and to keep and bear arms for the defense of their person, family, property, and the state, and for lawful hunting, recreational, and other lawful purposes, which shall not be infringed.”
1889	SD	S.D. Const. of 1889, art. VI, § 24: “The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the state shall not be denied.”
1889	MT	Mont. Const. of 1972, art. II, § 12: Retained 1889 provision.

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		Mont. Const. of 1889, art. III, § 13: “The right of any person to keep or bear arms in defense of his own home, person and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall not be called in question, but nothing herein contained shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.”
1889	WA	Wash. Const. of 1889, art. I, § 24: “The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself, or the state, shall not be impaired, but nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing individuals or corporations to organize, maintain or employ an armed body of men.”
1890	ID	Idaho Const. of 1889, art. I, § 11 (as amended in 1978): “The people have the right to keep and bear arms, which right shall not be abridged; but this provision shall not prevent the passage of laws to govern the carrying of weapons concealed on the person nor prevent passage of legislation providing minimum sentences for crimes committed while in possession of a firearm, nor prevent the passage of legislation providing penalties for the possession of firearms by a convicted felon, nor prevent the passage of any legislation punishing the use of a firearm. No law shall impose licensure, registration or special taxation on the ownership or possession of firearms or ammunition. Nor shall any law permit the confiscation of firearms, except those actually used in the commission of a felony.” Idaho Const. of 1889, art. I, § 11: “The people have the right to bear arms for their security and defense; but the Legislature shall regulate the exercise of this right by law.”
1890	WY	Wyo. Const. of 1889, art. I, § 24: “The right of citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and of the State shall not be denied.”
1896	UT	Utah Const. of 1896, art. I, § 6 (as amended in 1984): “The individual right of the people to keep and bear arms for security and defense of self, family, others, property, or

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		the state, as well as for other lawful purposes shall not be infringed; but nothing herein shall prevent the Legislature from defining the lawful use of arms.”
		Utah Const. of 1896, art. I, § 6: “The people have the right to bear arms for their security and defense, but the legislature may regulate the exercise of this right by law.”
1907	OK	Okla. Const. of 1907, art. II, § 26: “The right of a citizen to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person, or property, or in aid of the civil power, when thereunto legally summoned, shall never be prohibited; but nothing herein contained shall prevent the Legislature from regulating the carrying of weapons.”
1912	NM	N.M. Const. of 1912, art. II, § 6 (as amended in 1986): “No law shall abridge the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms for security and defense, for lawful hunting and recreational use and for other lawful purposes, but nothing herein shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons. No municipality or county shall regulate, in any way, an incident of the right to keep and bear arms.” N.M. Const. of 1912, art. II, § 6 (as amended in 1971): “No law shall abridge the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms for security and defense, for lawful hunting and recreational use and for other lawful purposes, but nothing herein shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.” N.M. Const. of 1912, art. II, § 6: “The people have the right to bear arms for their security and defense, but nothing herein shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.”
1912	AZ	Ariz. Const. of 1912, art. II, § 26: “The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself or the state shall not be impaired, but nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing individuals or corporations to organize, maintain, or employ an armed body of men.”
1959	AK	Alaska Const. of 1959, art. II, § 19 (as amended in 1994: the amendment also changed the section title from

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		“Right to Bear Arms” to “Right to Keep and Bear Arms”): “A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The individual right to keep and bear arms shall not be denied or infringed by the State or a political subdivision of the State.” Alaska Const. of 1959, art. II, § 19: “A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”
1959	HI	Haw. Const. of 1959, art. I, § 17: “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

Notes: (1) State constitutions that were in effect before the enactment of the state’s first constitution containing an arms-bearing provision are not listed. (2) Nonsubstantive changes solely to punctuation, spelling, and typeface between versions of a constitution are not separately noted.