
DIGEST

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HB 131 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

McCormick

Abstract: Exempts certain persons from the crime of illegal carrying of weapons and removes the requirement that a person possess a permit issued by the state of La. in order to carry a concealed handgun in the state of La.

Present law (R.S. 14:95) prohibits the carrying of a concealed firearm, provides for criminal penalties, and provides for certain exceptions to the offense.

Proposed law amends present law to create an exception to this prohibition for a person located in La. who is 18 years of age or older and who is not prohibited from possessing a firearm under any federal or state law.

Present law (R.S. 40:1379.3) provides that La. residents who meet certain eligibility requirements may apply for and be issued a concealed handgun permit authorizing the person to carry a concealed handgun on his person in the state of La. Further requires the person to possess a valid concealed handgun permit issued by the state of La. in order to carry a concealed handgun in the state of La.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 40:1379.3(B)(2)(a)) provides that a La. resident who meets the qualifications of present law (R.S. 14:95(M)) shall not be required to possess a valid concealed handgun permit issued by the state of La. pursuant to present law in order to carry a concealed handgun in the state of La. Further provides that the provisions of present law shall not affect the requirements of reciprocity.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that a person who meets the qualifications of present law (R.S. 14:95(M)) shall not be required to possess a valid concealed handgun permit issued by the state of La. pursuant to present law in order to carry a concealed handgun in the state of La.

Present law (R.S. 40:1379.3.3) provides that the DPS&C, office of state police, shall provide a two-hour online handgun education course at no cost to La. residents.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for the length of the online course to be two hours.

Proposed law amends present law to change the length of the online course from two hours to two hours and 15 minutes.

Present law provides that the online handgun education course shall cover all of the following topics:

- (1) Handgun basics and nomenclature.
- (2) Firearm-free zones.
- (3) Use of deadly force.
- (4) Interactions with law enforcement officers.
- (5) Conflict resolution.
- (6) Accident prevention.
- (7) Unauthorized access prevention.
- (8) Safe handling of a handgun.

Proposed law retains present law, but amends the topic of "handgun basics and nomenclature" to include handling procedures for a revolver and a semiautomatic pistol.

Proposed law further combines the topic of "safe storage of firearms" with the topic of "accident prevention".

Proposed law further adds the topic of "suicide prevention, with an emphasis on the impact of firearm-related suicides involving veterans and current service members of the U.S. Armed Forces" to the course.

Present law provides that the DPS&C, office of state police, shall divide the topics provided in present law into eight video segments that shall broadcast for no less than 15 minutes per segment.

Proposed law amends present law to change the number of video segments from eight to nine, but still provides that the video segments shall broadcast for no less than 15 minutes per segment.

(Amends R.S. 14:95(M)(1) and (2) and R.S. 40:1379.3(B)(2)(a), 1379.3.3(B), (D)(1) and (6), and (F)(2); Adds R.S. 40:1379.3(D)(9); Repeals R.S. 14:95(M)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Relative to the exception to the present law crime of illegal carrying of weapons:

- (a) Expand the exception from any Louisiana resident to any person.
 - (b) Remove certain persons from the exception.
3. Increase the length of the online handgun education course offered by state police from two hours to two hours and fifteen minutes.
 4. Amend present law relative to handgun education course topics.
 5. Provide for new education course topics.
 6. Increase the video segments relative to the course topics from 8 to 9.