

HB 136 -- Concealable Weapons

Co-Sponsors: Crawford, Moore, Cooper (120), Dougherty, Ward, Jetton, Whorton

This bill allows county sheriffs to issue permits to individuals to carry concealed weapons. Permits are valid throughout the state for three years.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OBTAINING A PERMIT

To qualify for a permit, individuals must be at least 21 years of age, not have pled to or been found guilty of a crime that is punishable by a prison sentence of more than one year, not be a fugitive, not have been adjudged mentally incompetent, clear a federal background check, and comply with training requirements. The permit application must include affirmations of the requirements for obtaining a permit, a warning that individuals who make false statements will be prosecuted for perjury, and a statement of compliance with training requirements.

LIMITATIONS ON WHERE CONCEALED WEAPONS MAY BE CARRIED

The bill allows governmental units, businesses, and other organizations to limit the ability to carry concealed weapons into areas of public buildings that they lease, own, or control, including courthouses; meeting places of governing bodies or the General Assembly; polling places on election day; adult or juvenile detention facilities and other correctional institutions; airports; bars; schools; hospitals; stadiums; amusement parks; gambling facilities; and churches. Judges or officers of the court who have permits may carry concealed weapons into courthouses, and members of governing bodies who have permits may carry concealed weapons into meetings of the governing body. Violating prohibitions on carrying concealed weapons in certain locations is grounds for being denied access to or being removed from the premises. Frequent violators are subject to monetary penalties and permit suspensions.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for a permit must complete a firearms safety course provided by law enforcement agencies, qualified firearms safety instructors, or the military. The bill specifies the required curriculum, including classroom work, live firing exercises, and examinations. Certification and training required for qualified firearms safety instructors are also specified. Instructors must keep their course records available for at least four years. Instructors who provide false information about the performance of an applicant in the training program are guilty of a class C

misdemeanor.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The bill requires sheriffs to approve or deny a permit application within 30 days of receipt. The permit must be issued within seven days after approval. Sheriffs are required to keep records of permit applications and report all permits issued to the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System. Permit application fees may not exceed \$50; renewal fees may not exceed \$10. Fees are deposited in the county sheriff's revolving fund.

Alteration or transfer of a permit is a class A misdemeanor. Permits of persons who have had orders of protection issued against them will be suspended. Permit holders are required to notify the sheriff within specified time limits of changes in permanent residence or if a permit is lost or destroyed.

The bill contains an appeals process for aggrieved applicants and allows any person to file for revocation against permit holders if they have knowledge that the permittee is ineligible.

The bill also removes several provisions from the unlawful use of a weapon statute.