

HB 459 -- AGE FOR CARRYING OF FIREARMS

SPONSOR: Merideth

This bill provides that any person under the age of 21 that knowingly carries upon or about their person a firearm commits the offense of unlawful use of a weapon. This prohibition does not apply to any person who is in the lawful pursuit of game; acting in his or her capacity as a member of the United States Armed Forces or a law enforcement agency; who is in his or her dwelling premises; who is traveling in a continuous journey peaceably through the states; or who is 18 years of age or older and a member of, or honorably discharged from, the United States Armed Forces.

This bill raises the age of a qualified applicant for a concealed carry permit from 19 years of age to 21 years of age. The age for a qualified applicant who is a member of, or honorably discharged from, the United States Armed Forces remains 18 years of age.

Any person in violation of the provisions of this bill shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor if the firearm is unloaded and a class E felony if the firearm is loaded.