

HCS HB 328 -- CONCEALED CARRY PERMITS

SPONSOR: Taylor (48)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 6 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 328.

Currently, it is a crime to board a bus with a dangerous or deadly weapon or carry such a weapon in a terminal.

This bill allows a concealed carry permit holder to lawfully carry firearms on public transportation. Individuals with a permit can also carry a firearm while traveling by bus. This bill does not apply to property of Amtrak or any partnership in which Amtrak engages.

The bill expands the listed items that satisfy the requirement that an applicant for a concealed carry permit demonstrate knowledge of firearms safety training to include, for active duty military service members, receipt of a pistol marksmanship recognition.

The bill lowers the age requirement from at least 19 to 18 years of age or older for concealed carry permits.

This bill is similar to HB 1708 (2024).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill provides the base level of safety for our citizens. There are a lot of public spaces that leave people vulnerable. Supporters further say that otherwise law-abiding citizens should have the right to carry a gun in all public places. If someone is a legal gun owner, but then enters onto a public bus, the moment they get on the bus, they are in violation of criminal law. Supporters further point out that "gun free zones" often have the highest rates of gun deaths.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Taylor; Marcos Zelada-Rodas; Arnie Dienoff; Susan Myers; and Carl Smart.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that there is no evidence that the increase in the number of guns in one space results in less gun activity, like a gun fight. Gun violence can happen not

just on a public bus, but also in the area in which they are depart the bus. Opponents further say that currently, each individual church can choose to allow concealed carry, but that this bill will essentially force all churches to accept guns on their premises. As a result, this bill would allow more rights to a casino or liquor store than to a church.

Testifying in person against the bill were Brian Kaylor, Word&Way; Missouri Public Transit Association; Monica Lee; Kansas City Area Transportation Authority; The City of St. Louis; City Utilities of Springfield; City of Kansas City, KC Chamber of Commerce, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City; and Anastasia Ross, Moms Demand Action.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.