

House Bill 286

By: Representative Marin of the 96<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 16-11-129 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 license to carry a pistol or revolver and temporary renewal permit, so as to provide that  
3 persons applying for such a license shall complete a handgun safety course; to provide that  
4 the Department of Public Safety shall promulgate regulations establishing criteria for such  
5 courses; to provide that the department shall approve persons to conduct such training; to  
6 provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 16-11-129 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to license to  
10 carry a pistol or revolver and temporary renewal permit, is amended by revising subsection  
11 (a) as follows:

12 *"(a) Application for license or renewal license; term.* The judge of the probate court of  
13 each county may, on application under oath and on payment of a fee of \$15.00, issue a  
14 license or renewal license valid for a period of five years to any person whose domicile is  
15 in that county or who is on active duty with the United States armed forces and who is not  
16 a domiciliary of this state but who either resides in that county or on a military reservation  
17 located in whole or in part in that county at the time of such application, which license or  
18 renewal license shall authorize that person to carry any pistol or revolver in any county of  
19 this state notwithstanding any change in that person's county of residence or state of  
20 domicile. Applicants shall submit the application for a license or renewal license to the  
21 judge of the probate court on forms prescribed and furnished free of charge to persons  
22 wishing to apply for the license or renewal license. Applicants shall provide a recent  
23 passport sized photograph and proof of successful completion of a handgun safety course  
24 approved by the Department of Public Safety within three years of the application. An  
25 applicant who is not a United States citizen shall provide sufficient personal identifying  
26 data, including without limitation his or her place of birth and United States issued alien

27 or admission number, as the Georgia Bureau of Investigation may prescribe by rule or  
 28 regulation. An applicant who is in nonimmigrant status shall provide proof of his or her  
 29 qualifications for an exception to the federal firearm prohibition pursuant to 18 U.S.C.  
 30 Section 922(y). Forms shall be designed to elicit information from the applicant pertinent  
 31 to his or her eligibility under this Code section, including citizenship, but shall not require  
 32 data which is nonpertinent or irrelevant such as serial numbers or other identification capable  
 33 of being used as a de facto registration of firearms owned by the applicant. The Department  
 34 of Public Safety shall furnish application forms and license forms required by this Code  
 35 section. The forms shall be furnished to each judge of each probate court within the state at  
 36 no cost."

### 37 SECTION 2.

38 Said Code section is further amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

39 "(d.1)(1) Handgun safety course. The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate  
 40 regulations containing general guidelines for a basic handgun safety course, which shall  
 41 entail at least eight hours of instruction and shall include, at a minimum, the following:

42 (A) Information on the statutory and case law of this state relating to handguns and to  
 43 the use of deadly force;

44 (B) Information on handgun use and safety;

45 (C) Information on the proper storage practice for handguns with an emphasis on  
 46 storage practices that reduces the possibility of accidental injury to a child; and

47 (D) The actual firing of the handgun in the presence of the instructor.

48 (2) The department shall promulgate regulations establishing criteria for approval as a  
 49 handgun safety instructor. Any state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency,  
 50 nationally recognized organization that promotes gun safety, or operator of a private  
 51 shooting range may apply to the department for authorization to conduct an approved  
 52 handgun safety course. The department shall approve such organizations if it is satisfied  
 53 that the instructors and facilities meet or exceed the guidelines and qualifications  
 54 contained in the regulations promulgated by the department. Any person or organization  
 55 which is approved to provide a basic handgun safety course shall be authorized to charge  
 56 a reasonable fee for such instruction."

### 57 SECTION 3.

58 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2010.

### 59 SECTION 4.

60 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.