

Senate Bill 68

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Orrock of the 36th, Lucas of the 26th, Seay of the 34th,
Butler of the 55th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to carrying and possession of firearms, so as to provide for a training
3 requirement for the issuance of a weapons carry license; to provide for related matters; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to carrying and possession of firearms, is amended in Code Section 16-11-129,
9 relating to weapons carry licenses, by revising subsection (a) and by adding a new subsection
10 to read as follows:

11 "(a) **Application for weapons carry license or renewal license; term.** The judge of the
12 probate court of each county may, on application under oath, on completion of training as
13 provided for in subsection (m) of this Code section, and on payment of a fee of \$30.00,
14 issue a weapons carry license or renewal license valid for a period of five years to any
15 person whose domicile is in that county or who is on active duty with the United States
16 armed forces and who is not a domiciliary of this state but who either resides in that county
17 or on a military reservation located in whole or in part in that county at the time of such
18 application. Such license or renewal license shall authorize that person to carry any
19 weapon in any county of this state notwithstanding any change in that person's county of
20 residence or state of domicile. Applicants shall submit the application for a weapons carry
21 license or renewal license to the judge of the probate court on forms prescribed and
22 furnished free of charge to persons wishing to apply for the license or renewal license. An
23 applicant who is not a United States citizen shall provide sufficient personal identifying
24 data, including without limitation his or her place of birth and United States issued alien
25 or admission number, as the Georgia Bureau of Investigation may prescribe by rule or
26 regulation. An applicant who is in nonimmigrant status shall provide proof of his or her
27 qualifications for an exception to the federal firearm prohibition pursuant to 18 U.S.C.

28 Section 922(y). Forms shall be designed to elicit information from the applicant pertinent
 29 to his or her eligibility under this Code section, including citizenship, but shall not require
 30 data which is nonpertinent or irrelevant, such as serial numbers or other identification
 31 capable of being used as a de facto registration of firearms owned by the applicant. The
 32 Department of Public Safety shall furnish application forms and license forms required by
 33 this Code section. The forms shall be furnished to each judge of each probate court within
 34 this state at no cost."

35 "(m)(1) **Training requirement for the issuance of a weapons carry license or renewal**
 36 **license.** Except as provided for under paragraph (4) of this subsection, no person shall
 37 be issued a weapons carry license after December 31, 2015, unless he or she has
 38 successfully completed, within three years prior to submitting a weapons carry license
 39 application, a handgun education course offered by a handgun education training
 40 organization as approved by the Department of Public Safety. Any person successfully
 41 completing such course shall receive proof of training from such organization in such
 42 form and manner as determined by the Department of Public Safety.

43 (2) Any person issued a weapons carry license on or before December 31, 2015, or
 44 issued a weapons carry license after the successful completion of a handgun education
 45 course pursuant to this subsection shall have satisfied the training requirement of this
 46 Code section.

47 (3) The handgun education course as provided for under paragraph (1) of this subsection
 48 shall be at least eight hours and shall include but not be limited to:

49 (A) Information on the laws of this state relating to handguns and the use of deadly
 50 force;

51 (B) Information on handgun use and safety;

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

54 (D) The actual firing of a handgun in the presence of the instructor at an established
 55 shooting range authorized by the governing body of the jurisdiction where such
 56 shooting range is located.

57 (4) The requirements of this Code section shall not apply to any person who:

58 (A) Is an instructor at a handgun education training organization as approved by the
 59 Department of Public Safety;

60 (B) Demonstrates to the commissioner of public safety, or his or her designee, that he
 61 or she has a proficiency in both the use of handguns and the laws of this state pertaining
 62 to handguns; or

63 (C) Is on active duty with the United States armed forces.

64 (5) The commissioner of public safety shall create rules and regulations for the
65 implementation of this subsection."

66 **SECTION 2.**

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