

House Bill 280 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23rd, Powell of the 32nd, Meadows of the 5th, Jasperse of the 11th, Jones of the 91st, 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 authorize the carrying and
3 possession of handguns in certain manners by weapons carry license holders in certain
4 buildings or on real property owned by or leased to public institutions of postsecondary
5 education; to provide for exceptions; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters;
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to carrying and possession of firearms, is amended in subsection (c) of Code Section
11 16-11-127.1, relating to carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school functions,
12 or on a bus or other transportation furnished by a school, by deleting "or" at the end of
13 paragraph (18), by replacing the period with "; or" at the end of paragraph (19), and by
14 adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

15 "(20)(A) Any weapons carry license holder when he or she is in any building or on real
16 property owned by or leased to any public technical school, vocational school, college,
17 or university, or other public institution of postsecondary education; provided, however,
18 that such exception shall:

19 (i) Not apply to buildings or property used for athletic sporting events or student
20 housing, including, but not limited to, fraternity and sorority houses;

21 (ii) Not apply to preschool space if at each entrance to the preschool space it is
22 advertised that such preschool space is designated for operations licensed or regulated
23 under Article 1 of Chapter 1A of Title 20; provided, however, that this division shall
24 not apply if such public institution of postsecondary education has more than three
25 buildings on the campus housing preschool space;

26 (iii) Only apply to the carrying of handguns which a licensee is licensed to carry
27 pursuant to subsection (h) of Code Section 16-11-126 and pursuant to Code Section
28 16-11-129; and

29 (iv) Only apply to the carrying of handguns which are concealed.

30 (B) As used in this paragraph, the term:

31 (i) 'Concealed' means carried in such a fashion that does not actively solicit the
32 attention of others and prominently, openly, and intentionally displayed only for
33 purposes of defense of self or others. Such term shall include, but not be limited to,
34 carrying on one's person while such handgun is substantially, but not necessarily
35 completely, covered by an article of clothing which is worn by such person, carrying
36 within a bag of a nondescript nature which is being carried about by such person, or
37 carrying in any other fashion as to not be clearly discernible by the passive
38 observation of others.

39 (ii) 'Handgun' shall have the same meaning as provided for in Code Section
40 16-11-125.1.

41 (iii) 'Preschool space' means a room or a continuous collection of rooms in a building
42 which are separated from other areas of the building by an electronic mechanism or
43 human-staffed point of controlled access and designated for operations licensed or
44 regulated under Article 1 of Chapter 1A of Title 20."

45 **SECTION 2.**

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