

Senate Bill 78

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Parent of the 42nd, Orrock of the 36th, Jordan of the 6th,
Seay of the 34th 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 shall, on application under oath, on payment of a fee of
13 \$30.00, ~~and~~ on investigation of applicant pursuant to subsections (b) and (d) of this Code
14 section, and on completion of training as provided for in subsection (m) of this Code
15 section, issue a weapons carry license or renewal license valid for a period of five years to
16 any person whose domicile is in that county or who is on active duty with the United States
17 armed forces and who is not a domiciliary of this state but who either resides in that county
18 or on a military reservation located in whole or in part in that county at the time of such
19 application. Such license or renewal license shall authorize that person to carry any
20 weapon in any county of this state notwithstanding any change in that person's county of
21 residence or state of domicile. Applicants shall submit the application for a weapons carry
22 license or renewal license to the judge of the probate court on forms prescribed and
23 furnished free of charge to persons wishing to apply for the license or renewal license. An
24 application shall be considered to be for a renewal license if the applicant has a weapons
25 carry license or renewal license with 90 or fewer days remaining before the expiration of
26 such weapons carry license or renewal license or 30 or fewer days since the expiration of

27 such weapons carry license or renewal license regardless of the county of issuance of the
 28 applicant's expired or expiring weapons carry license or renewal license. An applicant who
 29 is not a United States citizen shall provide sufficient personal identifying data, including
 30 without limitation his or her place of birth and United States issued alien or admission
 31 number, as the Georgia Bureau of Investigation may prescribe by rule or regulation. An
 32 applicant who is in nonimmigrant status shall provide proof of his or her qualifications for
 33 an exception to the federal firearm prohibition pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 922(y).
 34 Forms shall be designed to elicit information from the applicant pertinent to his or her
 35 eligibility under this Code section, including citizenship, but shall not require data which
 36 is nonpertinent or irrelevant, such as serial numbers or other identification capable of being
 37 used as a de facto registration of firearms owned by the applicant. The Department of
 38 Public Safety shall furnish application forms and license forms required by this Code
 39 section. The forms shall be furnished to each judge of each probate court within this state
 40 at no cost."

41 "(m)(1) **Training requirement for the issuance of a weapons carry license or renewal**
 42 **license.** Except as provided for under paragraph (4) of this subsection, no person shall
 43 be issued a weapons carry license after December 31, 2019, unless he or she has
 44 successfully completed, within three years prior to submitting a weapons carry license
 45 application, a handgun education course offered by a handgun education training
 46 organization as approved by the Department of Public Safety. Any person successfully
 47 completing such course shall receive proof of training from such organization in such
 48 form and manner as determined by the Department of Public Safety.

49 (2) Any person issued a weapons carry license on or before December 31, 2019, or
 50 issued a weapons carry license after the successful completion of a handgun education
 51 course pursuant to this subsection shall have satisfied the training requirement of this
 52 Code section.

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

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

57 (B) Information on handgun use and safety;

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

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

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

- 64 (A) Is an instructor at a handgun education training organization as approved by the
65 Department of Public Safety;
66 (B) Demonstrates to the commissioner of public safety, or his or her designee, that he
67 or she has a proficiency in both the use of handguns and the laws of this state pertaining
68 to handguns; or
69 (C) Is on active duty with the United States armed forces.
70 (5) The commissioner of public safety shall create rules and regulations for the
71 implementation of this subsection."

72 **SECTION 2.**

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