

House Bill 331

By: Representatives Sharper of the 177th, Randall of the 142nd, Kidd of the 145th, and Waites of the 60th

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 require the completion
3 of a training requirement within 120 days of the issuance of a weapons carry license; to
4 provide that sheriffs shall offer handgun education courses; to provide for the design of such
5 handgun education courses by the Department of Public Safety; to provide for penalties; to
6 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 style="text-align:center">**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 Code Section 16-11-129,
11 relating to weapons carry licenses, by revising subsection (a) and by adding a new subsection
12 to read as follows:

13 "(a) **Application for weapons carry license or renewal license; term.** The judge of the
14 probate court of each county may, on application under oath and on payment of a fee of
15 \$30.00, 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; provided, however, that the issuance of a weapons carry renewal license shall
20 be subject to the completion of training as provided for in subsection (m) of this Code
21 section. Such license or renewal license shall authorize that person to carry any weapon
22 in any county of this state notwithstanding any change in that person's county of residence
23 or state of domicile. Applicants shall submit the application for a weapons carry license
24 or renewal license to the judge of the probate court on forms prescribed and furnished free
25 of charge to persons wishing to apply for the license or renewal license. An applicant who
26 is not a United States citizen shall provide sufficient personal identifying data, including

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

38 **"(m) Training requirement for the issuance of a weapons carry renewal license.**

39 (1) Every sheriff shall offer a handgun education course at least once every 60 days.
 40 There shall be no charge or fee to any resident of this state for his or her attendance at or
 41 completion of such handgun education course.

42 (2) The handgun education course as provided for under paragraph (1) of this subsection
 43 shall be as designed and provided for by the Department of Public Safety; provided,
 44 however, that such handgun education course shall include but not be limited to:

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

47 (B) Information on handgun use and safety; and

48 (C) Information on proper storage practices for handguns with an emphasis on storage
 49 practices that reduce the possibility of accidental injury to a child.

50 (3) Every person issued a weapons carry license after December 31, 2015, shall complete
 51 the handgun education course as provided for by paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection
 52 within 120 days of the issuance of such weapons carry license. Any person successfully
 53 completing such course shall receive proof of training in such form and manner as
 54 determined by the Department of Public Safety.

55 (4)(A) No person required to complete the handgun education course pursuant to
 56 paragraph (3) of this Code section shall be issued a weapons carry renewal license until
 57 he or she has successfully completed such course.

58 (B) Any person who fails to complete the handgun education course within 120 days
 59 of his or her issuance of a weapons carry license shall be assessed a civil fee of \$25.00
 60 upon his or her application for a weapons carry renewal license.

61 (5)(A) Any person issued a weapons carry license on or before December 31, 2015, or
 62 having completed the handgun education course after the issuance of his or her weapons

63 carry license pursuant to this subsection shall have satisfied the training requirement of
64 this Code section.

65 (B) The training requirement of this Code section shall not apply to any persons
66 provided for under Code Section 16-11-130 who may apply for a weapons carry
67 license.

68 (6) The commissioner of public safety shall promulgate rules and regulations for the
69 implementation of this subsection."

70 **SECTION 2.**

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