

HOUSE BILL NO. 674

INTRODUCED BY K. SEEKINS-CROWE, K. ZOLNIKOV, P. FIELDER, L. BREWSTER, N. NICOL, S. GALLOWAY, R. MARSHALL, M. HOPKINS, T. BROCKMAN, J. KASSMIER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING AN ENHANCED PERMIT TO CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON; PROVIDING APPLICATION CRITERIA AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS AND COUNTY SHERIFFS; CREATING A PERMIT RENEWAL PROCESS; SPECIFYING WHO MAY NOT HOLD AN ENHANCED PERMIT; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Enhanced permit to carry concealed weapon. (1) To obtain an

optional enhanced permit to carry a concealed weapon, an applicant shall submit an application to the sheriff of the county in which the applicant resides. The permit is valid for 5 years from the date of issuance and may be renewed pursuant to subsection (6).

(2) An application for an enhanced permit must include:

(a) a copy of the applicant's fingerprints for submission to the federal bureau of investigation, or to any government agency or entity authorized to receive the information, for a state, national, and international criminal background check;

(b) an authorization from the applicant to run a fingerprint background check; and

(c) proof that the applicant:

(i) has successfully completed a qualifying handgun course, as defined in subsection (5), within the preceding 12 months; or

(ii) is a current or former law enforcement officer and has, within the preceding 12 months, qualified or requalified on a certified shooting course administered by a firearms instructor approved by the department of justice.

(3) An applicant for an enhanced concealed carry permit must be:

(i) a United States citizen or permanent lawful resident;

1 (ii) 21 years of age or older;

2 (iii) the holder of a valid Montana driver's license or other form of identification issued by the state

3 that has a picture of the person identified; and

4 (iv) a resident of the state for at least 6 months on the date of application.

5 (4) A county sheriff who receives an application for an enhanced permit to carry a concealed
6 weapon shall:

7 (a) forward the copy of the applicant's fingerprints, the applicant's authorization for processing a
8 criminal background check, and the payment for the criminal background check to the criminal records and
9 identification services section of the department of justice for processing;

10 (b) retain the application and other documents until the sheriff receives the results of the
11 background checks required pursuant to subsection (2); and

12 (c) after receiving satisfactory background check results and verification that an applicant has met
13 the requirements of subsection (2)(c)(i) or (2)(c)(ii) and subsection (3), issue a permit clearly designated as
14 enhanced within 60 days after the filing of the application.

15 (5) A qualifying handgun course is any handgun course approved by the department of justice that
16 includes instruction in each of the following:

17 (a) laws relating to firearms and the use of force;

18 (b) the basic concepts of the safe and responsible use of handguns;

19 (c) self-defense principles; and

20 (d) live fire training, including the firing of at least 98 rounds of ammunition by the student.

21 (6) A person who holds an enhanced permit to carry a concealed weapon may renew the permit
22 through the sheriff of the county in which the person resides. The period for renewal begins 180 days before the
23 permit expires and ends 30 days after the permit expires. To renew an enhanced permit, a person shall:

24 (a) pass a criminal background check; and

25 (b) present proof that:

26 (i) during the period of renewal, the applicant successfully completed a live fire component of a
27 qualifying handgun course pursuant to subsection (5)(d); or

28 (ii) the applicant is a current or former law enforcement officer and has, within the preceding 12

1 months, qualified or requalified on a certified shooting course administered by a firearms instructor approved by
2 the department of justice.

3 (7) (a) If a person fails to renew an enhanced permit to carry a concealed weapon during the
4 period set forth in subsection (6), the enhanced permit is deemed to be invalid.

5 (b) To obtain an enhanced permit after a previous enhanced permit has become invalid, a person
6 shall submit a new application and meet all requirements for an initial enhanced permit.

7 (8) Except as provided in subsection (9), an enhanced permit to carry a concealed weapon may
8 not be denied to a qualified applicant unless the applicant:

9 (a) is ineligible under Montana or federal law to own, possess, or receive a firearm;

10 (b) has been charged and is awaiting judgment in any state or federal crime that is
11 punishable by incarceration for 1 year or more;

12 (c) subject to the provisions of subsection (10), has been convicted in any state or federal court of:

13 (i) a crime punishable by more than 1 year of incarceration; or

14 (ii) regardless of the sentence that may be imposed, a crime that includes as an element of the
15 crime an act, attempted act, or threat of intentional homicide, serious bodily harm, unlawful restraint, sexual
16 abuse, or sexual intercourse or contact without consent;

17 (d) has been convicted under 45-8-327 or 45-8-328, unless the applicant has been pardoned or 5
18 years have elapsed since the date of the conviction;

19 (e) has a warrant of any state or the federal government out for the applicant's arrest;

20 (f) has been adjudicated in a criminal or civil proceeding in any state or federal court to be an
21 unlawful user of an intoxicating substance and is under a court order of imprisonment or other incarceration,
22 probation, suspended or deferred imposition of sentence, treatment or education, or other conditions of release
23 or is otherwise under state supervision;

24 (g) has been adjudicated in a criminal or civil proceeding in any state or federal court to be
25 mentally ill, mentally disordered, or mentally disabled and is still subject to a disposition order of that court; or

26 (h) was dishonorably discharged from the United States armed forces.

27 (9) A county sheriff may deny an applicant an enhanced permit to carry a concealed weapon if the
28 sheriff has reasonable cause to believe that the applicant is mentally ill, mentally disordered, or mentally

1 disabled or otherwise may be a threat to the peace and good order of the community to the extent that the
2 applicant should not be allowed to carry a concealed weapon. At the time an application is denied, the sheriff
3 shall, unless the applicant is the subject of an active criminal investigation, give the applicant a written
4 statement of the reasonable cause on which the denial is based.

5 (10) Except for a person referred to in subsection (8)(c)(ii), a person who has been convicted of a
6 felony and whose rights have been restored pursuant to Article II, section 28, of the Montana constitution is
7 entitled to issuance of an enhanced concealed weapons permit if otherwise eligible.

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9 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
10 integral part of Title 45, chapter 8, part 3, and the provisions of Title 45, chapter 8, part 3, apply to [section 1].

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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