

HCS HB 859 -- CONCEALED CARRY PERMITS

SPONSOR: Brattin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Downsizing State Government by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute specifies that all certificates of qualification for concealed carry endorsements and all concealed carry endorsements must become invalid on February 1, 2014.

After January 1, 2014, any person who has a valid certificate of qualification for a concealed carry endorsement or a valid concealed carry endorsement may, prior to its expiration, present it or his or her driver's or nondriver's license with an endorsement to the county sheriff where he or she resides to have it converted to a concealed carry permit. Beginning January 1, 2014, a sheriff cannot accept an application for or renew a certificate of qualification for a concealed carry endorsement and the Department of Revenue cannot accept an application for or issue or renew a driver's or nondriver's license with a concealed carry endorsement.

If an applicant for a concealed carry permit satisfies all the specified requirements, including an application using the approved form, training, and background check, the sheriff must issue a concealed carry permit. Any person who has been issued a concealed carry permit and it has not been suspended, revoked, canceled, or denied may carry concealed firearms on or about his or her person or within a vehicle. The permit will be valid for three years and is valid throughout the state.

Any person issued a concealed carry permit must carry the permit at all times he or she is carrying a concealed firearm and must display the permit upon the request of any peace officer. Failure to comply with this provision will not be a criminal offense, but the permit holder may be issued a citation for an amount of up to \$35.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will simplify the process of getting a concealed carry weapon permit. The sheriff who completes the background check and certification process will be the one to issue the permit, eliminating the Department of Revenue's role in the process of issuing permits. The bill will require qualification either on a revolver or a semiautomatic handgun, instead of both firearms as currently required. Instructors are finding that it is difficult to train the elderly on two different types of firearms.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Brattin; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others say that they are not opposed to the bill, but there are concerns about the cost of maintaining the program.

Testifying for informational purposes was Missouri Sheriffs Association.