

SCS HB 533 -- FIREARMS

This bill exempts a paid, full-time fire department or fire protection district chief from the crime of unlawful use of a weapon if he or she carries a concealed weapon as part of his or her official duties. The chief must have the written approval of the governing body of the department or district to carry the weapon and must possess a valid concealed carry endorsement.

The bill specifies that the state cannot prohibit any state employee from having a firearm in his or her vehicle on state property if the vehicle is locked and the firearm is not visible. These provisions only apply to the state as an employer when the state employee's vehicle is on property owned or leased by the state and the state employee is conducting activities within the scope of his or her employment.

A county, municipality, or other governmental body or an agent of the entity cannot participate in any program in which an individual is given a thing of value in exchange for surrendering a firearm to the entity unless it has adopted a resolution, ordinance, or rule authorizing the participation in the program and the resolution, ordinance, or rule specifies that any firearm received must be offered for sale or trade to a licensed firearms dealer. The proceeds from any sale or gains from a trade must be the property of the entity unless the proceeds are collected by a sheriff, in which case the proceeds must be deposited in the county sheriff's revolving fund. Any firearm remaining in the possession of the entity after it has been offered for sale or trade to at least two licensed firearms dealers may be destroyed.

The General Assembly strongly promotes responsible gun ownership, including parental supervision of minors in the proper use, storage, and ownership of all firearms; the prompt reporting of stolen firearms; and the proper enforcement of all state gun laws. The General Assembly condemns any unlawful transfer of firearms and the use of any firearm in any criminal or unlawful activity.