

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB115ES1 **Patron:** Pekarsky
Bill Title: Concealed handgun permits; reciprocity with other states.

Bill Summary: This engrossed substitute bill provides that, any out-of-state permit is recognized in the Commonwealth, provided that (i) the issuing authority provides the means for instantaneous verification of the validity of all such permits or licenses issued within that state accessible 24 hours a day and (ii) except for the age of the permit or license holder and the type of weapon authorized to be carried, the requirements and qualifications of that state's law are substantially similar to the requirements provided in this article to prevent possession of a permit or license by persons who would be denied a permit in the Commonwealth under this article. This bill provides that the Department of State Police shall determine and publish on its website any state that meets the statutory qualifications for Virginia to recognize the concealed handgun permit of a person from such other state. This bill also provides that the Superintendent of State Police shall maintain a registry of such states on the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) and make the registry available to law-enforcement officer for investigative purposes. It also provides that the Superintendent of State Police, in consultation with the Attorney General, may also enter into agreement for reciprocal recognition with any state qualifying for recognition under this proposal. The bill prevents a Virginia resident, except for an active-duty service member or such service member's spouse, who has not been issued a valid resident concealed handgun permit from using a concealed handgun or concealed weapon permit or license issued by another state to carry a concealed handgun in the Commonwealth. The foregoing provisions of the bill have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.

The bill requires the Department of State Police to review any agreements for reciprocal recognition that are in place with any other states as of July 1, 2026, to determine whether the requirements and qualifications of those states' laws are adequate to prevent possession of a permit or license by persons who would be denied a permit in the Commonwealth and revoke any reciprocity agreement or recognition of any states that do not meet such requirements or qualifications by December 1, 2026. It also requires the agency to provide a written explanation for any determination that a state's laws are substantially similar to the requirements established by the Code of Virginia to prevent possession of such permit or license by persons who would be denied such permit in the Commonwealth.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: Item 417

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary: There is an anticipated fiscal impact of the Department of State Police as a result of this proposal.

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General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
Dept. of State Police	0	\$206,682	\$206,682	\$206,682	\$206,682	\$206,682
TOTAL	0	\$206,682	\$206,682	\$206,682	\$206,682	\$206,682

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
Dept. of State Police	0	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	0	1	1	1	1	1

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires the Department of State Police (VSP) to determine if the requirements and qualifications of state law are substantially similar to the requirements provided in this article to prevent possession of a permit or license by person who would be denied a permit in Virginia. The agency would be required to determine and publish on its website any state that meets the requirements and qualifications stated in the proposal. The agency indicates they would need up to two positions to meet the requirements of the bill. This would include one attorney and either an additional attorney or paralegal to assist with the workload. The agency did not provide the estimated cost for a paralegal. However, it is DPB's determination that one attorney would be sufficient to meet the provisions of this bill. The salary and benefit cost of an attorney is \$206,682. This cost does not include any equipment or other one-time costs.

The bill also requires the Superintendent of State Police to maintain a registry of such states on the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) and make the registry available to law-enforcement officers for investigative purposes. It also allows for the Superintendent of State Police, in consultation with the Attorney General, to enter into agreement for reciprocal recognition with any state. VSP did not provide an estimated cost for the changes to VCIN. The impact on the OAG is unknown at this time

Other: This bill is similar to HB24.