

26109383D

HOUSE BILL NO. 916**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations
on March 4, 2026)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Lopez)

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-308.02 and 18.2-308.06 of the Code of Virginia, relating to concealed handgun permit; demonstrated competence.***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That §§ 18.2-308.02 and 18.2-308.06 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 18.2-308.02. Application for a concealed handgun permit; Virginia resident or domiciliary.**

A. Any person 21 years of age or older may apply in writing to the clerk of the circuit court of the county or city in which he resides, or if he is a member of the United States Armed Forces and stationed outside the Commonwealth, the county or city in which he is domiciled, for a five-year permit to carry a concealed handgun. There shall be no requirement regarding the length of time an applicant has been a resident or domiciliary of the county or city. The application shall be on a form prescribed by the Department of State Police, in consultation with the Supreme Court, requiring only that information necessary to determine eligibility for the permit. Additionally, the application shall request but not require that the applicant provide an email or other electronic address where a notice of permit expiration can be sent pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-308.010. The applicant shall present one valid form of photo identification issued by a governmental agency of the Commonwealth or by the U.S. Department of Defense or U.S. State Department (passport). No information or documentation other than that which is allowed on the application in accordance with this section may be requested or required by the clerk or the court.

B. The court shall require proof that the applicant has demonstrated competence with a handgun in person and the applicant may demonstrate such competence by one of the following, but no applicant shall be required to submit to any additional demonstration of competence, nor shall any proof of demonstrated competence expire:

1. Completing any hunter education or hunter safety course approved by the Department of Wildlife Resources or a similar agency of another state;

2. Completing ~~any National Rifle Association~~ *a handgun shooting class or United States Concealed Carry Association firearms safety or training course that teaches (i) efficient, effective, and responsible use of a concealed handgun for self-defense outside the home; (ii) state laws pertaining to handguns; and (iii) proper handgun storage techniques;*

3. Completing any firearms safety or training course or class available to the general public offered by a law-enforcement agency, institution of higher education, or private or public institution or organization or firearms training school utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association, the United States Concealed Carry Association, or the Department of Criminal Justice Services;

4. Completing any law-enforcement firearms safety or training course or class offered for security guards, investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of law enforcement or security enforcement;

5. Presenting evidence of equivalent experience with a firearm through participation in organized shooting competition or current military service or proof of an honorable discharge from any branch of the armed services;

6. Obtaining or previously having held a license to carry a firearm in the Commonwealth or a locality thereof, unless such license has been revoked for cause;

7. Completing any in-person firearms training or safety course or class conducted by a state-certified, National Rifle Association-certified, or United States Concealed Carry Association-certified firearms instructor;

8. Completing any governmental police agency firearms training course and qualifying to carry a firearm in the course of normal police duties; or

9. Completing any other firearms training that the court deems adequate.

A photocopy of a certificate of completion of any of the courses or classes; an affidavit from the instructor, school, club, organization, or group that conducted or taught such course or class attesting to the completion of the course or class by the applicant; or a copy of any document that shows completion of the course or class or evidences participation in firearms competition shall constitute evidence of qualification under this subsection.

C. The making of a materially false statement in an application under this article shall constitute perjury, punishable as provided in § 18.2-434.

D. The clerk of court shall withhold from public disclosure the applicant's name and any other information contained in a permit application or any order issuing a concealed handgun permit, except that such information shall not be withheld from any law-enforcement officer acting in the performance of his official

60 duties or from the applicant with respect to his own information. The prohibition on public disclosure of
61 information under this subsection shall not apply to any reference to the issuance of a concealed handgun
62 permit in any order book before July 1, 2008; however, any other concealed handgun records maintained by
63 the clerk shall be withheld from public disclosure.

64 E. An application is deemed complete when all information required to be furnished by the applicant,
65 including the fee for a concealed handgun permit as set forth in § 18.2-308.03, is delivered to and received by
66 the clerk of court before or concomitant with the conduct of a state or national criminal history records check.

67 F. For purposes of this section, a member of the United States Armed Forces is domiciled in the county or
68 city where such member claims his home of record with the United States Armed Forces.

69 **§ 18.2-308.06. Nonresident concealed handgun permits.**

70 A. Nonresidents of the Commonwealth 21 years of age or older may apply in writing to the Virginia
71 Department of State Police for a five-year permit to carry a concealed handgun. The applicant shall submit a
72 photocopy of one valid form of photo identification issued by a governmental agency of the applicant's state
73 of residency or by the U.S. Department of Defense or U.S. State Department (passport). Every applicant for a
74 nonresident concealed handgun permit shall also submit two photographs of a type and kind specified by the
75 Department of State Police for inclusion on the permit and shall submit fingerprints on a card provided by the
76 Department of State Police for the purpose of obtaining the applicant's state or national criminal history
77 record. As a condition for issuance of a concealed handgun permit, the applicant shall submit to
78 fingerprinting by his local or state law-enforcement agency and provide personal descriptive information to
79 be forwarded with the fingerprints through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the U.S. Federal
80 Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information regarding the
81 applicant and obtaining fingerprint identification information from federal records pursuant to criminal
82 investigations by state and local law-enforcement agencies. The application shall be on a form provided by
83 the Department of State Police, requiring only that information necessary to determine eligibility for the
84 permit. If the permittee is later found by the Department of State Police to be disqualified, the permit shall be
85 revoked and the person shall return the permit after being so notified by the Department of State Police. The
86 permit requirement and restriction provisions of subsection C of § 18.2-308.02 and § 18.2-308.09 shall apply,
87 mutatis mutandis, to the provisions of this subsection.

88 B. The applicant shall demonstrate competence with a handgun in person by one of the following:

89 1. Completing a hunter education or hunter safety course approved by the Virginia Department of Wildlife
90 Resources or a similar agency of another state;

91 2. Completing ~~any National Rifle Association~~ *a handgun shooting class* or ~~United States Concealed Carry~~
92 ~~Association firearms safety or training~~ *course that teaches (i) efficient, effective, and responsible use of a*
93 *concealed handgun for self-defense outside the home; (ii) state laws pertaining to handguns; and (iii) proper*
94 *handgun storage techniques;*

95 3. Completing any firearms safety or training course or class available to the general public offered by a
96 law-enforcement agency, institution of higher education, or private or public institution or organization or
97 firearms training school utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association, the United States
98 Concealed Carry Association, or the Department of Criminal Justice Services or a similar agency of another
99 state;

100 4. Completing any law-enforcement firearms safety or training course or class offered for security guards,
101 investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of law enforcement or security enforcement;

102 5. Presenting evidence of equivalent experience with a firearm through participation in organized shooting
103 competition approved by the Department of State Police or current military service or proof of an honorable
104 discharge from any branch of the armed services;

105 6. Obtaining or previously having held a license to carry a firearm in the Commonwealth or a locality
106 thereof, unless such license has been revoked for cause;

107 7. Completing any in-person firearms training or safety course or class conducted by a state-certified,
108 National Rifle Association-certified, or United States Concealed Carry Association-certified firearms
109 instructor;

110 8. Completing any governmental police agency firearms training course and qualifying to carry a firearm
111 in the course of normal police duties; or

112 9. Completing any other firearms training that the Virginia Department of State Police deems adequate.

113 A photocopy of a certificate of completion of any such course or class; an affidavit from the instructor,
114 school, club, organization, or group that conducted or taught such course or class attesting to the completion
115 of the course or class by the applicant; or a copy of any document that shows completion of the course or
116 class or evidences participation in firearms competition shall satisfy the requirement for demonstration of
117 competence with a handgun.

118 C. The Department of State Police may charge a fee not to exceed \$100 to cover the cost of the
119 background check and issuance of the permit. Any fees collected shall be deposited in a special account to be
120 used to offset the costs of administering the nonresident concealed handgun permit program.

121 D. The permit to carry a concealed handgun shall contain only the following information: name, address,

122 date of birth, gender, height, weight, color of hair, color of eyes, and photograph of the permittee; the
123 signature of the Superintendent of the Virginia Department of State Police or his designee; the date of
124 issuance; and the expiration date.

125 E. The Superintendent of the State Police shall promulgate regulations, pursuant to the Administrative
126 Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), for the implementation of an application process for obtaining a nonresident
127 concealed handgun permit.

128 **2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2027 Session of the**
129 **General Assembly.**