CHAPTER 879

An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.014 of the Code of Virginia, relating to concealed handgun permits; reciprocity with other states.

[S 115]

Approved April 13, 2026

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 18.2-308.014 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-308.014. Concealed handgun permits; reciprocity.

A. A valid concealed handgun or concealed weapon permit or license issued by another state shall authorize the holder of such permit or license who is at least 21 years of age to carry a concealed handgun 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 ~~if available;~~ *and* (ii) ~~the permit or license holder carries a photo identification issued by a government agency of any state or by the U.S. Department of Defense or U.S. Department of State and displays the permit or license and such identification upon demand by a law-enforcement officer; and (iii) the permit or license holder has not previously had a Virginia concealed handgun permit revoked~~ *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. The Office of the Attorney General shall determine, and the Department of State Police shall publish on its website, any state that meets the requirements and qualifications of this subsection.* The Superintendent of State Police shall ~~enter into agreements for reciprocal recognition with such other states that require an agreement to be in place before such state will recognize a Virginia concealed handgun permit as valid in such state. The Attorney General shall provide the Superintendent with any legal assistance or advice necessary for the Superintendent to perform his duties set forth in this subsection. If the Superintendent determines that another state requires that an agreement for reciprocal recognition be executed by the Attorney General or otherwise formally approved by the Attorney General as a condition of such other state's entering into an agreement for reciprocal recognition, the Attorney General shall (a) execute such agreement or otherwise formally approve such agreement and (b) return to the Superintendent the executed agreement or, in a form deemed acceptable by such other state, documentation of his formal approval of such agreement within 30 days after the Superintendent notifies the Attorney General, in writing, that he is required to execute or otherwise formally approve such agreement~~ *(a) maintain a registry of such states on the Virginia Criminal Information Network and (b) make the registry available to law-enforcement officers for investigative purposes. The Superintendent of State Police, in consultation with the Attorney General, may also enter into agreements for reciprocal recognition with any state qualifying for recognition under this subsection.*

B. For the purposes of participation in concealed handgun reciprocity agreements with other jurisdictions, the official government-issued law-enforcement identification card issued to an active-duty law-enforcement officer in the Commonwealth who is exempt from obtaining a concealed handgun permit under this article shall be deemed a concealed handgun permit.

C. A Virginia resident who has not been issued a valid concealed handgun permit pursuant to § 18.2-308.02 shall not use a concealed handgun or concealed weapon permit or license issued by another state to carry a concealed handgun in the Commonwealth. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to an active duty service member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such active duty service member.

2. That the Office of the Attorney General shall review any agreements for reciprocal recognition that are in place with any other states pursuant to § 18.2-308.014 of the Code of Virginia as of July 1, 2026, to determine whether the requirements and qualifications of those states' laws are substantially similar to the requirements under Article 6.1 (§ 18.2-307.1 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2 of the Code of Virginia to prevent possession of a permit or license by persons who would be denied a permit in the Commonwealth as required by § 18.2-308.014 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, and revoke any reciprocity agreement or recognition of any states that do not meet such requirements or qualifications by December 1, 2026. The Attorney General shall provide a written explanation for any determination that a state's laws are substantially similar to the requirements of Article 6.1 of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2 of the Code of Virginia to prevent possession of such permit or license by persons who would be denied such permit in the Commonwealth.

3. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.