SENATE BILL 43:
Protect Religious Meeting Places.

Committee:	House Judiciary 4. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	**Date:**	June 2, 2021
Introduced by:	Sens. Britt, Daniel, Johnson	**Prepared by:**	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: SB 43 would authorize carrying a handgun in a place of religious worship that is also educational property under certain conditions.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 14-269.2 prohibits weapons on educational property of schools, with certain exceptions. Schools are defined to include public schools, private schools, community colleges, colleges, and universities. It is a Class I felony to possess or carry any gun on educational property.

BILL ANALYSIS: SB 43 would create a new exception to the prohibition on weapons on educational property. A handgun could be carried in a place of religious worship that is also a school by an individual with a concealed handgun permit or who is exempt from obtaining that permit when all of the following apply:

- The property is not owned by a local board of education or county commission.

- The property is not a public or private institution of higher education.

- The property is not posted with a notice prohibiting carrying a concealed handgun on the premises.

- The handgun is only possessed and carried on the property outside of the school operating hours. School operating hours are defined as any time a curricular or extracurricular activity takes place on the premises, and any time when the premises are used for educational, instructional, or school-sponsored activities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: SB 43 would become effective December 1, 2021.

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