



HOUSE BILL 5: NC Constitutional Carry Act.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 19, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Kidwell, Adams, Moss, Echevarria	Prepared by:	Susan Sitze
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H5-CSSA-9		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 5 would allow the carry of a concealed handgun without a concealed handgun permit, except as otherwise prohibited by law.*

CURRENT LAW:

G.S. 14-269 generally prohibits the carrying of concealed weapons, including firearms. Exceptions include law enforcement officers and persons with a concealed handgun permit issued pursuant to Article 54B of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes. To obtain a concealed handgun permit, a person must be at least 21 years old, complete an approved firearms safety and training course, and meet other listed criteria. G.S. 14-415.12(b) contains a list of criteria which would disqualify a person from being able to obtain a concealed handgun permit.

BILL ANALYSIS:

The PCS for House Bill 5 would make the following changes to the firearms laws of North Carolina:

- Create a new Article 54C in the General Statutes, which would authorize the concealed carry of a handgun by any U.S. citizen, who is at least 18 years old, and who is not otherwise disqualified by law because of a disqualifying criminal conviction or otherwise. The list of disqualifying criteria would mirror the criteria contained in G.S. 14-415.12(b) which would disqualify a person from obtaining a concealed handgun permit.
- Amend G.S. 14-269 to allow a person to carry a concealed handgun pursuant to Article 54B or Article 54C.
- Continue to authorize the issuance of concealed handgun permits for purposes of reciprocity with other states, efficiency of purchasing a firearm, and various other reasons.
- Amend the criteria listed in G.S.14-415.12(b) to eliminate an impaired driving conviction within the prior three years as a disqualifying event to obtaining a concealed handgun permit.
- Amend the current prohibitions against carrying a firearm into an assembly where a fee is charged for admission or an establishment where alcohol is served to only prohibit firearms in those locations if the person is consuming alcohol or has alcohol or a controlled substance remaining in their body.
- Amend several statutes that generally prohibit firearms in certain locations but provide an exception for a person with a concealed handgun permit, to modify the exception to reflect the creation of Article 54C.

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- Make conforming changes.
- Amend the disqualifying criteria for restoration of firearm rights for a felon to remove a finding of probable cause for a felony from the list of disqualifying criteria. Being under indictment for a felony would remain a disqualifier.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

**Robert Ryan, Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.*