

SENATE BILL 118: Reduce Veteran CCW Fee/Expand CCW Notice.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate **Date:** May 1, 2025

Introduced by: Sens. Lazzara, Sawyer, Daniel Prepared by: Nicholas Giddings

Analysis of: Second Edition Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 118 would reduce the concealed handgun permit fees for individuals who were discharged honorably or under general honorable conditions from military service in the Armed Forces of the United States and authorize the sheriff to send the required notice regarding the expiration of a permit holder's concealed handgun permit via electronic mail.

CURRENT LAW/BILL ANALYSIS:

<u>Section 1</u>: G.S. 14-415.19 establishes the fees for a concealed handgun permit. A concealed handgun permit is valid throughout the State for a period of five years from the date of issuance. Under G.S. 14-415.19(a), the application fee is \$80.00, the renewal fee is \$75.00, and the duplicate permit fee is \$15.00. The proceeds of these fees are remitted to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the sheriff processing the concealed handgun permit application.

Under G.S. 14-415.19(a1), for a retired sworn law enforcement officer, the application fee for a concealed handgun permit is \$45.00, and the renewal fee is \$40.00. For the reduced fees to apply, the retired officer must provide a copy of the officer's letter of retirement and written documentation from the agency that previously employed the officer indicating that the officer was not involuntarily terminated or under investigation within six months of retirement. The proceeds of the reduced fees are remitted to DPS.

Section 1 of Senate Bill 118 would reduce the concealed handgun permit application and renewal fees for individuals who were discharged honorably or under general honorable conditions from military service in the Armed Forces of the United States. An applicant claiming a reduced fee based on previous military service would need to provide one of the following:

- A Form DD-214 showing the applicant has been discharged honorably or under general honorable conditions.
- A Veterans Identification Card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Other documentation (i) showing the applicant was discharged honorably or under general honorable conditions and (ii) deemed satisfactory by the sheriff.

If the applicant provides this documentation, the application fee for a concealed handgun permit would be \$45.00, and the renewal fee would be \$40.00. The proceeds of these fees would be remitted to DPS.

<u>Section 2</u>: G.S. 14-415.16 provides that at least 45 days prior to the expiration of a concealed handgun permit, the sheriff of the county where the permit was issued must send written notice to the permit holder to inform them of the expiration of the permit and the requirements for renewal. The notice must be sent by first class mail to the last known address of the permit holder.

Section 2 of Senate Bill 118 would authorize the sheriff to send the required notice regarding the expiration of a permit holder's concealed handgun permit via electronic mail, rather than first class mail, if the permit

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holder consents to receive electronic communications. The permit holder may consent to receive electronic communications on the permit application or via a separate paper form which may be returned to the sheriff. The State Bureau of Investigation would be required to create the form which can be used by the permit holder to provide or revoke their consent to receive electronic communications.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 1 of this act would become effective July 1, 2025, and apply to applications for concealed handgun permits and permit renewals submitted on or after that date. Section 2 of this act would become effective October 1, 2025. The remainder of this act would become effective when it becomes law.

Michael Johnston, counsel to Senate Judiciary, substantially contributed to this summary.