



# SENATE BILL 50: Freedom to Carry NC.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b> Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b> March 19, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b> Sens. Britt, Daniel, Settle	<b>Prepared by:</b> Robert Ryan
<b>Analysis of:</b> Second Edition	Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 50 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:

Senate Bill 50 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.
- Make conforming changes.

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- 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.