



SENATE BILL 50: Freedom to Carry NC.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:
Introduced by: Sens. Britt, Daniel, Settle
Analysis of: Ratified

Date: July 29, 2025
Prepared by: Susan Sitze
Staff Attorney

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.

Kara McCraw
Director



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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.

Section 1.9 of the bill would increase the public safety employee death benefit to \$150,000.

Section 9.1 would increase the punishment for assault with a firearm to a Class B1 felony if the assault is committed against one of the following:

- A law enforcement officer
- A probation officer
- A parole officer
- A member of the North Carolina National Guard
- An employee of a detention facility
- An emergency medical technician or other emergency health care provider
- A medical responder
- A firefighter
- A telecommunicator employed by a law enforcement agency.

Sections 15.5 and 15.6 would amend the offense of possession of a firearm by a felon, which is a Class G felony, to include two new offenses as follows:

- A Class F felony for possession of a firearm by a felon during the commission or attempted commission of a felony under Chapter 14 or Article 5 of Chapter 90.
- A Class C felony for possession of a firearm by a felon when a firearm is discharged during the commission or attempted commission of a felony under Chapter 14 or Article 5 of Chapter 90.

Section 16.7 would require the University of North Carolina Board of Governors to develop a scholarship program for any child of a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker who is permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. The scholarship would be available to children at least 17 years old but not yet 28 years old, and would provide assistance with tuition, fees, educational supplies, and boarding expenses not covered under Chapter 115B, and would be available for both undergraduate and graduate programs. The Board of Governors shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the establishment of the program no later than July 1, 2026.

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