

Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

I emphatically endorse HB 5408, a bill that would require the holder of a permit for the carrying of a firearm, to present such permit upon request of a law enforcement officer.

More and more often, individuals are carrying handguns openly in public places, while shopping or frequenting restaurants. More often there are confrontations with the police. Then it seems prudent, in the interest of public safety and our right to safe communities, that these individuals should be required to produce their permit when asked by a law enforcement officer. It is disconcerting to know that, as the law currently stands, unless there is a reasonable suspicion of a crime, a police officer is not allowed to see the permit of the person carrying, to ensure that the permit is valid.

HB 5408 would require the permit to be shown upon request by a police officer. This is a common sense solution that would alleviate tension between the officer, the permit holder, and the public who witness the encounter.

HB 5409:

I oppose this bill that would take away the right of police chiefs to ask for additional documents or other information, in addition to the basic application, to determine the suitability of a person seeking a permit to carry handguns in public.

SB 20:

I support this bill which will change the definition of carrying a firearm when intoxicated by reducing the prohibited ratio of alcohol in the blood to eight-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol. The current standard defines the prohibited blood level ratio at ten-hundredths of one per cent. Eight hundredths of one per cent is consistent with the driving while intoxicated standard.

Sincerely,

Deborah Palmieri

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