

March 3, 2016

Testimony to the Public Safety and Security Committee
concerning HB 5408, HB 5409 and SB 20

Dear Public Safety and Security Committee:

I am testifying today to strongly encourage you to support the passage of HB 5408, "to require the holder of a permit for the carrying of any pistol or revolver to present such permit upon request of a law enforcement officer". HB 5408 will clearly eliminate conflicting interpretations of the current law.

In an era of increasingly common mass shootings in public places*, when school children are routinely subjected to active shooter drills, there is heightened sensitivity by the public and law enforcement of the risks of unidentified people carrying guns in public places. Distinguishing a "good guy with a gun" from from a "bad guy with a gun" is not always easy, but is critical. Enabling Law enforcement officers to routinely check pistol permits should be an uncontroversial public safety measure - and it would be if not for an extreme faction that oppose most gun laws as infringing on their Constitutional rights. You, whose highest duty is to protect the safety of the public, should not let their ideology prevail.

In addition to HB 5408, I support SB 20 which changes the definition of carrying a firearm when intoxicated by reducing the prohibited ratio of alcohol in the blood to eight-hundreds of one per cent or more of alcohol, making it consistent with the driving while intoxicated standard. Certainly, handling a firearm carries as much risk and requires as much mental clarity and judgement as operating a car.

I oppose HB 5409 that would take away the right of police chiefs to ask for additional documents, in addition to the basic application, to determine the suitability of a person seeking a permit to carry handguns in public.

Thank you for your consideration.

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A Study of 160 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2013:
Incidents Annually



