
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5306

AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY STATE PERMITS AND STATE PERMITS TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER FOR RETIRED PEACE OFFICERS.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes certain retired peace officers who apply for a handgun permit to automatically receive (1) a temporary state permit from their local permit-issuing official and (2) one five-year permit from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). In doing so, it exempts these applicants from requirements that they:

1. complete a DESPP-approved handgun safety and use course;
2. provide full information on their criminal record and submit to state and national criminal history records checks; and
3. pay a \$140 permit fee, plus sufficient funds to pay for the FBI's national criminal history records checks.

The bill's automatic permit provisions apply to peace officers who (1) served for at least 10 consecutive years with a law enforcement unit (see BACKGROUND), (2) retired in good standing within 30 days before submitting their application for a temporary state handgun permit, and (3) are bona fide permanent residents of the jurisdiction in which they apply for the permit. Under the bill, these initial permits are subject to the existing handgun permit renewal process and \$70 renewal fee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

HANDGUN PERMITS FOR RETIRED OFFICERS

Under the bill, the local police chief (or if none, first selectman or borough warden) must issue a temporary state handgun permit to any qualifying retired peace officer who submits a permit application. After

issuing the permit, the local official must forward the original application to the DESPP commissioner, who must subsequently issue a state permit. In both cases, the local official and DESPP commissioner must immediately inform the applicant that his or her request for a permit is approved.

Under the bill, these initial permits are subject to the existing handgun permit renewal process and \$70 renewal fee. The bill specifies that permit holders seeking to renew their permits must provide any information necessary to qualify for the renewal.

BACKGROUND

Peace Officers

By law, “peace officers” are state or local police officers, Division of Criminal Justice inspectors, state marshals exercising statutory authority, judicial marshals performing their duties, conservation officers or special conservation officers, constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties, appointed special policemen, adult probation officers, Department of Correction officials authorized to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, investigators in the State Treasurer's Office, Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST)-certified Department of Motor Vehicles inspectors, U.S. marshals and deputy marshals, federal narcotics agents, and POST-certified members of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes' law enforcement units (CGS § 53a-3(9)).

Law Enforcement Unit

A “law enforcement unit” is any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime (CGS § 7-294a(8)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/15/2022)