



AMVETS

Department of Ohio

Senate Bill 81 Testimony

American Veterans Department of Ohio (AMVETS)

Don McCauley Executive Director

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Committee

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Chair Terry Johnson, Vice Chair Darrell Kirk, Ranking Member Hearcel Craig and members of the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on behalf of Senate Bill 81.

AMVETS Department of Ohio was founded on June 14, 1946 as an advocate for veterans returning from World War II and we have continued that commitment for going on 72 years. AMVETS is the only Congressionally chartered veteran's organization whose membership is open to all veterans who served honorably; active duty, active reserve and National Guard after September 15, 1940.

Under our current law, a veteran can apply for a concealed carry license by providing proof they are active duty, active reserve or National Guard and along proof of weapons training obtain their concealed carry license pending a background check. Additionally, veterans who have retired or been honorably discharged only have ten years to apply after receiving their separation from the United States Armed Forces. This prohibits veterans after ten years from qualifying for a concealed carry license based on their military service credentials and a background check.

Senate Bill 81 will modify the current ORC by:

1. Removing the ten-year time limit after retirement or separation from active duty allowing veterans to apply for the license with their separation documents.
2. Removing any fees for qualified veterans attempting to acquire a concealed carry permit up to a maximum \$1.5 million per fiscal year.
3. Permitting a current concealed carry license holder to renew their license before its expiration date allowing them to renew at the beginning of a fiscal year to take advantage of the free veteran renewal before the \$1.5 Million is exhausted for the year.



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It is my opinion that veterans have already received the proper training on weapons that exceeds the States minimum training requirements and current law does not require non-veteran citizens to retake their training after ten years. Why shouldn't the same apply for our Ohio veterans?

Our veterans deserve to have their military training recognized by the State of Ohio and this bill provides them with that. In addition, this bill provides the veterans with a small benefit for their service by the State of Ohio.

Chair Johnson, thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 81. If there are any questions from me I will answer them at this time.