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John E. Murphy
Executive Director

HB-201; Concealed Firearms

Opponent Testimony

July 5, 2017

House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee

We are concerned with that part of HB-201 that would authorize any person 21 years of age or older who is not prohibited by federal law from possessing or receiving a firearm to carry a concealed firearm in the same way that a person with a concealed carry license may carry a concealed firearm. As we understand it, the person would have all the rights to carry and would be subject to the same restrictions as apply to concealed carry license holders.

This would qualify a number of persons who are not currently qualified to carry a concealed firearm. These include persons who have not had the firearms training that is currently required, persons who have been convicted of a number of misdemeanor offenses including some misdemeanor drug offenses and misdemeanor assault of a peace officer. The bill also dispenses with the background check that is currently required.

Since there is no background check and no license requirement, presumably the person simply carries a concealed firearm if he thinks he is not disqualified. Whether he or she is in fact disqualified would only be determined after the fact.

We think the existing licensing process with the training requirements and background check are critical to public safety. These requirements help insure that only persons who are not disqualified by criminal convictions or mental illness will be able to secure a license, and that licensees have proper training in handling firearms. HB-201 would remove all of these safeguards.

We therefore oppose the enactment of HB-201.

Rep. Ron Hood

Rep. Tom Brinkman, Jr.