As Introduced

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session 2017-2018

S. B. No. 208

Senator Terhar

Cosponsors: Senators Beagle, Coley, Hottinger, Huffman, Jordan, Thomas, Uecker

A BILL

То	amend sections 2923.121 and 2923.126 and to	-
	enact section 2923.1214 of the Revised Code to	2
	allow a law enforcement officer or investigator,	
	whether on or off duty, to carry a weapon on	4
	certain premises open to the public.	

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 2923.121 and 2923.126 be amended	6
and section 2923.1214 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as	7
follows:	8
Sec. 2923.121. (A) No person shall possess a firearm in	9
any room in which any person is consuming beer or intoxicating	10
liquor in a premises for which a D permit has been issued under	11
Chapter 4303. of the Revised Code or in an open air arena for	12
which a permit of that nature has been issued.	13
(B)(1) This section does not apply to any of the	14
following:	15
(a) An officer, agent, or employee of this or any other	16
state or the United States , or to a law enforcement officer, who	17

is authorized to carry firearms and is acting within the scope	18
of the officer's, agent's, or employee's duties;	19
(b) A law enforcement officer or investigator, who is	20
authorized to carry firearms, as long as the officer or	21
investigator is not consuming beer or intoxicating liquor or	22
under the influence of alcohol or a drug of abuse;	23
(c) Any person who is employed in this state, who is	24
authorized to carry firearms, and who is subject to and in	25
compliance with the requirements of section 109.801 of the	26
Revised Code, unless the appointing authority of the person has	27
expressly specified that the exemption provided in division (B)	28
(1) (b) of this section does not apply to the person;	29
(c) (d) Any room used for the accommodation of guests of a	30
hotel, as defined in section 4301.01 of the Revised Code;	31
(d) (e) The principal holder of a D permit issued for a	32
premises or an open air arena under Chapter 4303. of the Revised	33
Code while in the premises or open air arena for which the	34
permit was issued if the principal holder of the D permit also	35
possesses a valid concealed handgun license and as long as the	36
principal holder is not consuming beer or intoxicating liquor or	37
under the influence of alcohol or a drug of abuse, or any agent	38
or employee of that holder who also is a peace officer, as	39
defined in section 2151.3515 of the Revised Code, who is off	40
duty, and who otherwise is authorized to carry firearms while in	41
the course of the officer's official duties and while in the	42
premises or open air arena for which the permit was issued and	43
as long as the agent or employee of that holder is not consuming	44
beer or intoxicating liquor or under the influence of alcohol or	45
a drug of abuse.	46

(e) (f) Any person who is carrying a valid concealed	47
handgun license or any person who is an active duty member of	48
the armed forces of the United States and is carrying a valid	49
military identification card and documentation of successful	50
completion of firearms training that meets or exceeds the	51
training requirements described in division (G)(1) of section	52
2923.125 of the Revised Code, as long as the person is not	53
consuming beer or intoxicating liquor or under the influence of	54
alcohol or a drug of abuse.	55
(2) This section does not prohibit any person who is a	56
member of a veteran's organization, as defined in section	57
2915.01 of the Revised Code, from possessing a rifle in any room	58
in any premises owned, leased, or otherwise under the control of	59
the veteran's organization, if the rifle is not loaded with live	60
ammunition and if the person otherwise is not prohibited by law	61
from having the rifle.	62

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- (3) This section does not apply to any person possessing or displaying firearms in any room used to exhibit unloaded firearms for sale or trade in a soldiers' memorial established pursuant to Chapter 345. of the Revised Code, in a convention center, or in any other public meeting place, if the person is an exhibitor, trader, purchaser, or seller of firearms and is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing, trading, purchasing, or selling the firearms.
- (C) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under this section of illegal possession of a firearm in a liquor permit premises that involves the possession of a firearm other than a handgun, that the actor was not otherwise prohibited by law from having the firearm, and that any of the following apply:
 - (1) The firearm was carried or kept ready at hand by the

actor for defensive purposes, while the actor was engaged in or	77
was going to or from the actor's lawful business or occupation,	78
which business or occupation was of such character or was	79
necessarily carried on in such manner or at such a time or place	80
as to render the actor particularly susceptible to criminal	81
attack, such as would justify a prudent person in going armed.	82
(2) The firearm was carried or kept ready at hand by the	83
actor for defensive purposes, while the actor was engaged in a	84
lawful activity, and had reasonable cause to fear a criminal	85
attack upon the actor or a member of the actor's family, or upon	86
the actor's home, such as would justify a prudent person in	87
going armed.	88
(D) No person who is charged with a violation of this	89
section shall be required to obtain a concealed handgun license	90
as a condition for the dismissal of the charge.	91
(E) Whoever violates this section is guilty of illegal	92
possession of a firearm in a liquor permit premises. Except as	93
otherwise provided in this division, illegal possession of a	94
firearm in a liquor permit premises is a felony of the fifth	95
degree. If the offender commits the violation of this section by	96
knowingly carrying or having the firearm concealed on the	97
offender's person or concealed ready at hand, illegal possession	98
of a firearm in a liquor permit premises is a felony of the	99
third degree.	100
(F) As used in this section, "beer":	101
(1) "Beer" and "intoxicating liquor" have the same	102
meanings as in section 4301.01 of the Revised Code.	103
(2) "Investigator" has the same meaning as in section	104

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109.541 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 2923.126. (A) A concealed handgun license that is	106
issued under section 2923.125 of the Revised Code shall expire	107
five years after the date of issuance. A licensee who has been	108
issued a license under that section shall be granted a grace	109
period of thirty days after the licensee's license expires	110
during which the licensee's license remains valid. Except as	111
provided in divisions (B) and (C) of this section, a licensee	112
who has been issued a concealed handgun license under section	113
2923.125 or 2923.1213 of the Revised Code may carry a concealed	114
handgun anywhere in this state if the licensee also carries a	115
valid license and valid identification when the licensee is in	116
actual possession of a concealed handgun. The licensee shall	117
give notice of any change in the licensee's residence address to	118
the sheriff who issued the license within forty-five days after	119
that change.	120

If a licensee is the driver or an occupant of a motor 121 vehicle that is stopped as the result of a traffic stop or a 122 stop for another law enforcement purpose and if the licensee is 123 transporting or has a loaded handgun in the motor vehicle at 124 that time, the licensee shall promptly inform any law 125 enforcement officer who approaches the vehicle while stopped 126 that the licensee has been issued a concealed handgun license 127 and that the licensee currently possesses or has a loaded 128 handgun; the licensee shall not knowingly disregard or fail to 129 comply with lawful orders of a law enforcement officer given 130 while the motor vehicle is stopped, knowingly fail to remain in 131 the motor vehicle while stopped, or knowingly fail to keep the 132 licensee's hands in plain sight after any law enforcement 133 officer begins approaching the licensee while stopped and before 134 the officer leaves, unless directed otherwise by a law 135 enforcement officer; and the licensee shall not knowingly have 136

contact with the loaded handgun by touching it with the	137
licensee's hands or fingers, in any manner in violation of	138
division (E) of section 2923.16 of the Revised Code, after any	139
law enforcement officer begins approaching the licensee while	140
stopped and before the officer leaves. Additionally, if a	141
licensee is the driver or an occupant of a commercial motor	142
vehicle that is stopped by an employee of the motor carrier	143
enforcement unit for the purposes defined in section 5503.34 of	144
the Revised Code and if the licensee is transporting or has a	145
loaded handgun in the commercial motor vehicle at that time, the	146
licensee shall promptly inform the employee of the unit who	147
approaches the vehicle while stopped that the licensee has been	148
issued a concealed handgun license and that the licensee	149
currently possesses or has a loaded handgun.	150

If a licensee is stopped for a law enforcement purpose and 151 if the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun at the time the 152 officer approaches, the licensee shall promptly inform any law 153 enforcement officer who approaches the licensee while stopped 154 that the licensee has been issued a concealed handqun license 155 and that the licensee currently is carrying a concealed handgun; 156 the licensee shall not knowingly disregard or fail to comply 157 with lawful orders of a law enforcement officer given while the 158 licensee is stopped or knowingly fail to keep the licensee's 159 hands in plain sight after any law enforcement officer begins 160 approaching the licensee while stopped and before the officer 161 leaves, unless directed otherwise by a law enforcement officer; 162 and the licensee shall not knowingly remove, attempt to remove, 163 grasp, or hold the loaded handgun or knowingly have contact with 164 the loaded handgun by touching it with the licensee's hands or 165 fingers, in any manner in violation of division (B) of section 166 2923.12 of the Revised Code, after any law enforcement officer 167 S. B. No. 208 Page 7
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begins approaching the licensee while stopped and before the	168
officer leaves.	169
(B) A valid concealed handgun license does not authorize	170
the licensee to carry a concealed handgun in any manner	171
prohibited under division (B) of section 2923.12 of the Revised	172
Code or in any manner prohibited under section 2923.16 of the	173
Revised Code. A valid license does not authorize the licensee to	174
carry a concealed handgun into any of the following places:	175
(1) A police station, sheriff's office, or state highway	176
patrol station, premises controlled by the bureau of criminal	177
identification and investigation; a state correctional	178
institution, jail, workhouse, or other detention facility; any	179
area of an airport passenger terminal that is beyond a passenger	180
or property screening checkpoint or to which access is	181
restricted through security measures by the airport authority or	182
a public agency; or an institution that is maintained, operated,	183
managed, and governed pursuant to division (A) of section	184
5119.14 of the Revised Code or division (A)(1) of section	185
5123.03 of the Revised Code;	186
(2) A school safety zone if the licensee's carrying the	187
concealed handgun is in violation of section 2923.122 of the	188
Revised Code;	189
(3) A courthouse or another building or structure in which	190
a courtroom is located, in violation of section 2923.123 of the	191
Revised Code;	192
(4) Any premises or open air arena for which a D permit	193
has been issued under Chapter 4303. of the Revised Code if the	194
licensee's carrying the concealed handgun is in violation of	195
section 2923.121 of the Revised Code;	196

(5) Any premises owned or leased by any public or private	197
college, university, or other institution of higher education,	198
unless the handgun is in a locked motor vehicle or the licensee	199
is in the immediate process of placing the handgun in a locked	200
motor vehicle or unless the licensee is carrying the concealed	201
handgun pursuant to a written policy, rule, or other	202
authorization that is adopted by the institution's board of	203
trustees or other governing body and that authorizes specific	204
individuals or classes of individuals to carry a concealed	205
handgun on the premises;	206
(6) Any church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of	207
worship, unless the church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of	208
worship posts or permits otherwise;	209
(7) Any building that is a government facility of this	210
state or a political subdivision of this state and that is not a	211
building that is used primarily as a shelter, restroom, parking	212
facility for motor vehicles, or rest facility and is not a	213
courthouse or other building or structure in which a courtroom	214
is located that is subject to division (B)(3) of this section,	215
unless the governing body with authority over the building has	216
enacted a statute, ordinance, or policy that permits a licensee	217
to carry a concealed handgun into the building;	218
(8) A place in which federal law prohibits the carrying of	219
handguns.	220
(C)(1) Nothing in this section shall negate or restrict a	221
rule, policy, or practice of a private employer that is not a	222
private college, university, or other institution of higher	223
education concerning or prohibiting the presence of firearms on	224
the private employer's premises or property, including motor	225
vehicles owned by the private employer. Nothing in this section	226

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shall require a private employer of that nature to adopt a rule,	227
policy, or practice concerning or prohibiting the presence of	228
firearms on the private employer's premises or property,	229
including motor vehicles owned by the private employer.	230
(2)(a) A private employer shall be immune from liability	231
in a civil action for any injury, death, or loss to person or	232
property that allegedly was caused by or related to a licensee	233
bringing a handgun onto the premises or property of the private	234
employer, including motor vehicles owned by the private	235
employer, unless the private employer acted with malicious	236
purpose. A private employer is immune from liability in a civil	237
action for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that	238
allegedly was caused by or related to the private employer's	239
decision to permit a licensee to bring, or prohibit a licensee	240
from bringing, a handgun onto the premises or property of the	241
private employer.	242
(b) A political subdivision shall be immune from liability	243
in a civil action, to the extent and in the manner provided in	244
Chapter 2744. of the Revised Code, for any injury, death, or	245
loss to person or property that allegedly was caused by or	246
related to a licensee bringing a handgun onto any premises or	247
property owned, leased, or otherwise under the control of the	248
political subdivision. As used in this division, "political	249
subdivision" has the same meaning as in section 2744.01 of the	250
Revised Code.	251
(c) An institution of higher education shall be immune	252
from liability in a civil action for any injury, death, or loss	253
to person or property that allegedly was caused by or related to	254
a licensee bringing a handgun onto the premises of the	255

institution, including motor vehicles owned by the institution,

unless the institution acted with malicious purpose. An	257
institution of higher education is immune from liability in a	258
civil action for any injury, death, or loss to person or	259
property that allegedly was caused by or related to the	260
institution's decision to permit a licensee or class of	261
licensees to bring a handgun onto the premises of the	262
institution.	263
(3)(a) Except as provided in division (C)(3)(b) of this	264
section and section 2923.1214 of the Revised Code, the owner or	265
person in control of private land or premises, and a private	266
person or entity leasing land or premises owned by the state,	267
the United States, or a political subdivision of the state or	268
the United States, may post a sign in a conspicuous location on	269
that land or on those premises prohibiting persons from carrying	270
firearms or concealed firearms on or onto that land or those	271
premises. Except as otherwise provided in this division, a	272
person who knowingly violates a posted prohibition of that	273
nature is guilty of criminal trespass in violation of division	274
(A)(4) of section 2911.21 of the Revised Code and is guilty of a	275
misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If a person knowingly violates	276
a posted prohibition of that nature and the posted land or	277
premises primarily was a parking lot or other parking facility,	278
the person is not guilty of criminal trespass under section	279
2911.21 of the Revised Code or under any other criminal law of	280
this state or criminal law, ordinance, or resolution of a	281
political subdivision of this state, and instead is subject only	282
to a civil cause of action for trespass based on the violation.	283
If a person knowingly violates a posted prohibition of the	201
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nature described in this division and the posted land or	285
premises is a child day-care center, type A family day-care	286

home, or type B family day-care home, unless the person is a

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licensee who resides in a type A family day-care home or type B	288
family day-care home, the person is guilty of aggravated	289
trespass in violation of section 2911.211 of the Revised Code.	290
Except as otherwise provided in this division, the offender is	291
guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the person	292
previously has been convicted of a violation of this division or	293
of any offense of violence, if the weapon involved is a firearm	294
that is either loaded or for which the offender has ammunition	295
ready at hand, or if the weapon involved is dangerous ordnance,	296
the offender is guilty of a felony of the fourth degree.	297
(b) A landlord may not prohibit or restrict a tenant who	298
is a licensee and who on or after September 9, 2008, enters into	299
a rental agreement with the landlord for the use of residential	300
premises, and the tenant's guest while the tenant is present,	301
from lawfully carrying or possessing a handgun on those	302
residential premises.	303
(c) As used in division (C)(3) of this section:	304

(i) "Residential premises" has the same meaning as in section 5321.01 of the Revised Code, except "residential premises" does not include a dwelling unit that is owned or operated by a college or university.

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- (ii) "Landlord," "tenant," and "rental agreement" have the same meanings as in section 5321.01 of the Revised Code.
- (D) A person who holds a valid concealed handgun license 311 issued by another state that is recognized by the attorney 312 general pursuant to a reciprocity agreement entered into 313 pursuant to section 109.69 of the Revised Code or a person who 314 holds a valid concealed handgun license under the circumstances 315 described in division (B) of section 109.69 of the Revised Code 316

has the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as	317
a person who was issued a concealed handgun license under	318
section 2923.125 of the Revised Code and is subject to the same	319
restrictions that apply to a person who carries a license issued	320
under that section.	321
(E)(1) A peace officer has the same right to carry a	322
concealed handgun in this state as a person who was issued a	323
concealed handgun license under section 2923.125 of the Revised	324
Code. For purposes of reciprocity with other states, a peace	325
officer shall be considered to be a licensee in this state.	326
(2) An active duty member of the armed forces of the	327
United States who is carrying a valid military identification	328
card and documentation of successful completion of firearms	329
training that meets or exceeds the training requirements	330
described in division (G)(1) of section 2923.125 of the Revised	331
Code has the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this	332
state as a person who was issued a concealed handgun license	333
under section 2923.125 of the Revised Code and is subject to the	334
same restrictions as specified in this section.	335
(F)(1) A qualified retired peace officer who possesses a	336
retired peace officer identification card issued pursuant to	337
division (F)(2) of this section and a valid firearms	338
requalification certification issued pursuant to division (F)(3)	339

of this section has the same right to carry a concealed handgun

reciprocity with other states, a qualified retired peace officer

who possesses a retired peace officer identification card issued

in this state as a person who was issued a concealed handgun

license under section 2923.125 of the Revised Code and is

subject to the same restrictions that apply to a person who

carries a license issued under that section. For purposes of

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pursuant to division (F)(2) of this section and a valid firearms	347
requalification certification issued pursuant to division (F)(3)	348
of this section shall be considered to be a licensee in this	349
state.	350
(2)(a) Each public agency of this state or of a political	351
subdivision of this state that is served by one or more peace	352
officers shall issue a retired peace officer identification card	353
to any person who retired from service as a peace officer with	354
that agency, if the issuance is in accordance with the agency's	355
policies and procedures and if the person, with respect to the	356
person's service with that agency, satisfies all of the	357
following:	358
(i) The person retired in good standing from service as a	359
peace officer with the public agency, and the retirement was not	360
for reasons of mental instability.	361
(ii) Before retiring from service as a peace officer with	362
that agency, the person was authorized to engage in or supervise	363
the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or	364
the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law and	365
the person had statutory powers of arrest.	366
(iii) At the time of the person's retirement as a peace	367
officer with that agency, the person was trained and qualified	368
to carry firearms in the performance of the peace officer's	369
duties.	370
(iv) Before retiring from service as a peace officer with	371
that agency, the person was regularly employed as a peace	372
officer for an aggregate of fifteen years or more, or, in the	373
alternative, the person retired from service as a peace officer	374
with that agency, after completing any applicable probationary	375

period of that service, due to a service-connected disability, 376 as determined by the agency. 377

- (b) A retired peace officer identification card issued to 378 a person under division (F)(2)(a) of this section shall identify 379 the person by name, contain a photograph of the person, identify 380 the public agency of this state or of the political subdivision 381 of this state from which the person retired as a peace officer 382 and that is issuing the identification card, and specify that 383 the person retired in good standing from service as a peace 384 385 officer with the issuing public agency and satisfies the criteria set forth in divisions (F)(2)(a)(i) to (iv) of this 386 section. In addition to the required content specified in this 387 division, a retired peace officer identification card issued to 388 a person under division (F)(2)(a) of this section may include 389 the firearms requalification certification described in division 390 (F)(3) of this section, and if the identification card includes 391 that certification, the identification card shall serve as the 392 firearms requalification certification for the retired peace 393 officer. If the issuing public agency issues credentials to 394 active law enforcement officers who serve the agency, the agency 395 may comply with division (F)(2)(a) of this section by issuing 396 the same credentials to persons who retired from service as a 397 peace officer with the agency and who satisfy the criteria set 398 forth in divisions (F)(2)(a)(i) to (iv) of this section, 399 provided that the credentials so issued to retired peace 400 officers are stamped with the word "RETIRED." 401
- (c) A public agency of this state or of a political 402 subdivision of this state may charge persons who retired from 403 service as a peace officer with the agency a reasonable fee for 404 issuing to the person a retired peace officer identification 405 card pursuant to division (F)(2)(a) of this section. 406

(3) If a person retired from service as a peace officer	407
with a public agency of this state or of a political subdivision	408
of this state and the person satisfies the criteria set forth in	409
divisions (F)(2)(a)(i) to (iv) of this section, the public	410
agency may provide the retired peace officer with the	411
opportunity to attend a firearms requalification program that is	412
approved for purposes of firearms requalification required under	413
section 109.801 of the Revised Code. The retired peace officer	414
may be required to pay the cost of the course.	415

If a retired peace officer who satisfies the criteria set 416 forth in divisions (F)(2)(a)(i) to (iv) of this section attends 417 a firearms requalification program that is approved for purposes 418 of firearms requalification required under section 109.801 of 419 the Revised Code, the retired peace officer's successful 420 completion of the firearms requalification program requalifies 421 the retired peace officer for purposes of division (F) of this 422 section for five years from the date on which the program was 423 successfully completed, and the requalification is valid during 424 that five-year period. If a retired peace officer who satisfies 425 the criteria set forth in divisions (F)(2)(a)(i) to (iv) of this 426 section satisfactorily completes such a firearms requalification 427 program, the retired peace officer shall be issued a firearms 428 requalification certification that identifies the retired peace 429 officer by name, identifies the entity that taught the program, 430 specifies that the retired peace officer successfully completed 431 the program, specifies the date on which the course was 432 successfully completed, and specifies that the requalification 433 is valid for five years from that date of successful completion. 434 The firearms requalification certification for a retired peace 435 officer may be included in the retired peace officer 436 identification card issued to the retired peace officer under 437

division (F)(2) of this section.	438
A retired peace officer who attends a firearms	439
requalification program that is approved for purposes of	440
firearms requalification required under section 109.801 of the	441
Revised Code may be required to pay the cost of the program.	442
(G) As used in this section:	443
(1) "Qualified retired peace officer" means a person who	444
satisfies all of the following:	445
(a) The person satisfies the criteria set forth in	446
divisions (F)(2)(a)(i) to (v) of this section.	447
(b) The person is not under the influence of alcohol or	448
another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance.	449
(c) The person is not prohibited by federal law from	450
receiving firearms.	451
(2) "Retired peace officer identification card" means an	452
identification card that is issued pursuant to division (F)(2)	453
of this section to a person who is a retired peace officer.	454
(3) "Government facility of this state or a political	455
subdivision of this state" means any of the following:	456
(a) A building or part of a building that is owned or	457
leased by the government of this state or a political	458
subdivision of this state and where employees of the government	459
of this state or the political subdivision regularly are present	460
for the purpose of performing their official duties as employees	461
of the state or political subdivision;	462
(b) The office of a deputy registrar serving pursuant to	463
Chapter 4503. of the Revised Code that is used to perform deputy	464

registrar functions.	465
(4) "Governing body" has the same meaning as in section	466
154.01 of the Revised Code.	467
Sec. 2923.1214. (A) An establishment serving the public	468
may not prohibit or restrict a law enforcement officer from	469
carrying a weapon on the premises that the officer is authorized	470
to carry, regardless of whether the officer is acting within the	471
scope of that officer's duties while carrying the weapon.	472
(B) As used in this section:	473
(1) "Establishment serving the public" means a hotel, a	474
restaurant or other place where food is regularly offered for	475
sale, a retail business or other commercial establishment or	476
office building that is open to the public, a sports venue, or	477
any other place of public accommodation, amusement, or resort	478
that is open to the public.	479
(2) "Hotel" has the same meaning as in section 3731.01 of	480
the Revised Code.	481
(3) "Sports venue" means any arena, stadium, or other	482
facility that is used primarily as a venue for sporting and	483
athletic events for which admission is charged.	484
(4) "Investigator" has the same meaning as in section	485
109.541 of the Revised Code.	486
Section 2. That existing sections 2923.121 and 2923.126 of	487
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	488