



Senate Bill 81 Sponsor Testimony

Senator Lou Terhar

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee

February 28, 2018

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

Under current law, a veteran may apply for a concealed carry license and use proper documentation as proof of training to show that the applicant is an active or reserve member of the Armed Forces of the United States and has received weapons training.

For a veteran who has retired from or was honorably discharged from military service in the active or reserve Armed Forces of the United States, documentation such as a DD-214 or equivalent would display that the applicant participated in the military service and acquired experience with handling handguns or other firearms. Currently, veterans must apply for an Ohio concealed carry license within ten years of receiving an honorable discharge or retirement from the Armed Forces of the United States for this documentation to be accepted.

Senate Bill 81 will modify the current ORC by:

1. Removing the 10 year time limit after retirement or separation for the documentation to be accepted by Ohio,
2. Removing any fees for these qualified veterans seeking to acquire a concealed carry permit. The County Sheriffs and Attorney General's office have agreed to waive the fees for veterans, up to \$1.5 million per year. When this limit is reached, the "window" for Veterans will close until the next calendar year. The Attorney General has agreed to track the waived fees and inform all County Sheriffs when the annual limit has been reached.

3. Permitting a current CHL holder to renew the license before its expiration date.

Our veterans have already received expert training for pistol and/or rifle. A DD-214 (or equivalent) is valid for certification of meeting the training requirements.

There is no longer a time limit from the day any Ohio citizen completes their CHL class to the time of their first CHL renewal. The same change should apply to Ohio veterans. The weapons training provided by the Armed Forces is intense and all inclusive. It's similar to learning to ride a bicycle: once you know, you don't forget.

Current Ohio law for CHL is still applicable to all Ohio CHL applicants.. The Concealed Carry Manual is a booklet which summarized Ohio's concealed handgun law and is required reading for all applicants for a concealed handgun license, including veterans.

Our trained veterans deserve to have their training recognized. This bill provides veterans with a sensible process for submitting their concealed carry application and provides them a small benefit from the State in recognition of their service.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Senate Bill 81. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.