



State Representative Anne Gonzales
19th House District

House Bill 20

House Sponsor Testimony

Good afternoon, Chairman Maag, Ranking Member Gerberry, and members of the House State Government Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 20 – drafted to clarify the authority of a concealed handgun licensee to possess a handgun in a school safety zone.

The need for this bill came to my attention after an event that occurred at an elementary school in New Albany. A father, who worked as a security guard and held a valid CHL, was picking his child up from school. He exited the vehicle to assist his child into the car and at that time another parent caught a glimpse of his handgun and called the police. The school was locked down and the police responded. The Franklin County Prosecutor confirmed that the law had not been broken and that no charges would be filed, but did state that the current law is poorly worded and can be confusing to the CHL holder. The purpose of the law is that when a person exits the vehicle, they leave the firearm in the vehicle and lock the vehicle.

This bill is an effort to clarify the current language regarding school safety zones and change the focus from the exceptions that allow a permit holder to enter the zone, to clearly state that the firearm does not leave the vehicle. The bill also eliminates superfluous language that is already outlined elsewhere in the code.

Again, this is a simple clarification of the current law that addresses the concerns of parents while preserving our constitutional rights.