



Representative Adam Mathews
56th House District

Representative Justin Pizzulli
90th House District

House Government Oversight Committee
Sponsor Testimony – H.B. 272
October 3, 2023

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and all honorable members of the Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 272, a simple clarifying bill to allow our smaller municipalities the same rights as our larger ones with respect to local control of concealed carry.

Current law gives permissive authority for municipalities to allow concealed carry in their city buildings. This change was from SB199 of the 131st General Assembly and still holds after constitutional carry was passed last term. However, combining the current language with other parts of the revised code could potentially prevent a municipality from allowing concealed carry in its own chambers if they also sometimes house a courtroom.

In many of our smaller communities, good stewardship of taxpayer dollars often means a single multi-purpose city or village hall. This city hall may house the tax department, council chambers, and a room that is sometimes a courtroom.

Our bill simply allows municipalities, which already have the authority to recognize concealed carry in their secondary buildings like the electric building, storage garages, and the like, to expand that protection to themselves even if in other instances or in other wings their home buildings are used for courtroom proceedings.

This bill recognizes the need to treat court proceedings with necessary care. In keeping with current law, a municipality cannot authorize concealed carry in a building that is entirely a courthouse. If part of the municipal hall is used for a courtroom, the municipality can only allow concealed carry when court is not in session.

As a reminder, this concealed carry recognition only applies if the local government affirmatively decides to pass an ordinance to do so. The permissive nature of this bill, as well as

safeguards put in place to ensure that it only applies to shared-use buildings where the decision makers actually hold their meetings, make this a common-sense clarification for current law. To empower local control and strengthen our concealed carry framework, we ask you to favorably report this bill. Thank you each for your time and attention and we would happily answer any questions.