

NC General Assembly action on School Safety for 2019– Opportunities for advocacy

The NC General Assembly is obviously taking note of the national public debate on school shootings and the reactions by students, and in some case they are listening, and in others they continue to fly in the face of expert advice and public opinion.

There two House Bills worth supporting as they progress through the Committee stages and we urge you to call or email your House representatives to support these bills. They are HB508 called the **Firearm Safe Storage Awareness Initiative** and this has passed the first reading in the House.

<https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2019/HB%20508>

The Second is HB 712 **Disposition of unclaimed or Seized Firearms.**

<https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2019/HB%20712> which allows for a court order to destroy guns seized by authorities.

The next round of Bills need to be opposed and deal with arming of teachers

HB216 <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2019/HB216> **School Self-Defense Act** AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OR STAFF OF A SCHOOL TO CARRY A HANDGUN ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS TO RESPOND TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE OR AN IMMINENT THREAT OF VIOLENCE

HB912 <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2019/HB912> **School Safety Changes for Nonpublic Schools** AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO COORDINATE WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ADOPT SCHOOL RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS, TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS MAY CARRY CERTAIN WEAPONS ON EDUCATIONAL PROPERTY WHEN AUTHORIZED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO HAS A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT MAY CARRY CERTAIN WEAPONS ON EDUCATIONAL PROPERTY THAT IS THE LOCATION OF BOTH A SCHOOL AND A PLACE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP WHEN THE PERSON IS ATTENDING WORSHIP SERVICES AND OTHER SACERDOTAL FUNCTIONS AT THE PLACE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP AS LONG AS STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING CLASS.

SB192 <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2019/SB%20192> **School Security Act of 2019** A Senate bill AN ACT TO CREATE THE POSITION OF TEACHER RESOURCE OFFICER, TO PERMIT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION FOR CANDIDATE TEACHER RESOURCE OFFICERS, TO ESTABLISH THE CANDIDATE TEACHER RESOURCE OFFICER GRANT PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL PAY TO TEACHER RESOURCE OFFICERS, TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO COORDINATE WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ADOPT SCHOOL RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS, TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS MAY CARRY CERTAIN WEAPONS ON EDUCATIONAL PROPERTY WHEN AUTHORIZED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO HAS A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT MAY CARRY CERTAIN WEAPONS ON EDUCATIONAL PROPERTY THAT IS THE LOCATION OF BOTH A SCHOOL AND A PLACE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP WHEN THE PERSON IS ATTENDING WORSHIP SERVICES AND OTHER SACERDOTAL FUNCTIONS AT THE PLACE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP AS LONG AS STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING CLASS.

All of these need to be opposed.

Another series of bills dealing with Gun Laws also need to be opposed as they make multiple changes to gun concealed carry laws.

HB61 <https://lrs.sog.unc.edu/billsum/h-61-2019-2020-0> **Omnibus Gun Changes** AN ACT TO MAKE MULTIPLE CHANGES TO THE STATE LAWS REGARDING FIREARMS This bill is lengthy and requires detailed scrutiny.

HB 498 <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2019/Hb498> **NC Constitutional Carry Act** AN ACT TO PROTECT A PERSON'S RIGHT TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN WITHOUT A PERMIT, TO PURCHASE A HANDGUN WITHOUT A PISTOL PURCHASE PERMIT, AND TO CONTINUE ALLOWING PERSONS TO ACQUIRE A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT FOR THE PURPOSES OF RECIPROCITY OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON DESIRED

HB 499 <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2019/hb499> Omnibus Gun Changes AN ACT TO MAKE MULTIPLE CHANGES TO THE STATE LAWS REGARDING FIREARMS

All of these bills make numerous changes to existing law as well as add new gun ownership and carrying regulations. All should be carefully scrutinized.