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HOUSE BILL NO. 546

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled January 9, 2006

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-308 of the Code of Virginia, relating to concealed handgun permits; retired law-enforcement officers.

Patron—Griffith

Referred to Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 18.2-308 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 18.2-308. Personal protection; carrying concealed weapons; when lawful to carry.

A. If any person carries about his person, hidden from common observation, (i) any pistol, revolver, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind by action of an explosion of any combustible material; (ii) any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, machete, razor, slingshot, spring stick, metal knucks, or blackjack; (iii) any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain; (iv) any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart; or (v) any weapon of like kind as those enumerated in this subsection, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. A second violation of this section or a conviction under this section subsequent to any conviction under any substantially similar ordinance of any county, city, or town shall be punishable as a Class 6 felony, and a third or subsequent such violation shall be punishable as a Class 5 felony. For the purpose of this section, a weapon shall be deemed to be hidden from common observation when it is observable but is of such deceptive appearance as to disguise the weapon's true nature.

B. This section shall not apply to any person while in his own place of abode or the curtilage thereof.

Except as provided in subsection J1, this section shall not apply to:

1. Any person while in his own place of business;

2. Any law-enforcement officer, wherever such law-enforcement officer may travel in the Commonwealth;

3. Any regularly enrolled member of a target shooting organization who is at, or going to or from, an established shooting range, provided that the weapons are unloaded and securely wrapped while being transported;

4. Any regularly enrolled member of a weapons collecting organization who is at, or going to or from, a bona fide weapons exhibition, provided that the weapons are unloaded and securely wrapped while being transported;

5. Any person carrying such weapons between his place of abode and a place of purchase or repair, provided the weapons are unloaded and securely wrapped while being transported;

6. Any person actually engaged in lawful hunting, as authorized by the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries, under inclement weather conditions necessitating temporary protection of his firearm from those conditions, provided that possession of a handgun while engaged in lawful hunting shall not be construed as hunting with a handgun if the person hunting is carrying a valid concealed handgun permit; and

7. Any State Police officer retired from the Department of State Police, any local law-enforcement officer, auxiliary police officer or animal control officer retired from a police department or sheriff's office within the Commonwealth, any special agent retired from the State Corporation Commission or the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, any game warden retired from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and any Virginia Marine Police officer retired from the Law Enforcement Division of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, other than an officer or agent terminated for cause, (i) with a service-related disability; (ii) following at least 15 years of service with any such law-enforcement agency, board or any combination thereof; or (iii) who has reached 55 years of age, provided such officer carries with him written proof of consultation with and favorable review of the need to carry a concealed handgun issued by the chief law-enforcement officer of the last such agency from which the officer retired or, in the case of special agents, issued by the State Corporation Commission or the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. A copy of the proof of consultation and favorable review shall be forwarded by the chief or the Board to the Department of State Police for entry into the Virginia

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59 Criminal Information Network. The chief law-enforcement officer shall not without cause withhold such
60 written proof if the retired law-enforcement officer otherwise meets the requirements of this section.

61 *If a local law-enforcement officer is denied written proof of consultation, the officer denied the proof*
62 *may appeal the decision to the attorney for the Commonwealth of the locality from which the officer*
63 *retired. The chief law-enforcement officer who denied the proof of consultation may share any records*
64 *with the attorney for the Commonwealth that may be relevant to the decision. A decision of the attorney*
65 *for the Commonwealth to issue or not issue proof of consultation to the retired law-enforcement officer*
66 *shall be final.*

67 For purposes of applying the reciprocity provisions of subsection P, any person granted the privilege
68 to carry a concealed handgun pursuant to this subdivision, while carrying the proof of consultation and
69 favorable review required, shall be deemed to have been issued a concealed handgun permit.

70 C. This section shall also not apply to any of the following individuals while in the discharge of
71 their official duties, or while in transit to or from such duties:

- 72 1. Carriers of the United States mail;
- 73 2. Officers or guards of any state correctional institution;
- 74 3. [Repealed.]

75 4. Conservators of the peace, except that the following conservators of the peace shall not be
76 permitted to carry a concealed handgun without obtaining a permit as provided in subsection D hereof:
77 (a) notaries public; (b) registrars; (c) drivers, operators or other persons in charge of any motor vehicle
78 carrier of passengers for hire; or (d) commissioners in chancery;

79 5. Noncustodial employees of the Department of Corrections designated to carry weapons by the
80 Director of the Department of Corrections pursuant to § 53.1-29; and

81 6. Harbormaster of the City of Hopewell.

82 D. Any person 21 years of age or older may apply in writing to the clerk of the circuit court of the
83 county or city in which he resides, or if he is a member of the United States Armed Forces, the county
84 or city in which he is domiciled, for a five-year permit to carry a concealed handgun. There shall be no
85 requirement regarding the length of time an applicant has been a resident or domiciliary of the county or
86 city. The application shall be made under oath before a notary or other person qualified to take oaths
87 and shall be made only on a form prescribed by the Department of State Police, in consultation with the
88 Supreme Court, requiring only that information necessary to determine eligibility for the permit. The
89 clerk shall enter on the application the date on which the application and all other information required
90 to be submitted by the applicant is received. The court shall consult with either the sheriff or police
91 department of the county or city and receive a report from the Central Criminal Records Exchange. As a
92 condition for issuance of a concealed handgun permit, the applicant shall submit to fingerprinting if
93 required by local ordinance in the county or city where the applicant resides and provide personal
94 descriptive information to be forwarded with the fingerprints through the Central Criminal Records
95 Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record
96 information regarding the applicant, and obtaining fingerprint identification information from federal
97 records pursuant to criminal investigations by state and local law-enforcement agencies. Where feasible
98 and practical, the local law-enforcement agency may transfer information electronically to the State
99 Police instead of inked fingerprint cards. Upon completion of the criminal history records check, the
100 State Police shall return the fingerprint cards to the submitting local agency or, in the case of scanned
101 fingerprints, destroy the electronic record. The local agency shall then promptly notify the person that he
102 has 21 days from the date of the notice to request return of the fingerprint cards, if any. All fingerprint
103 cards not claimed by the applicant within 21 days of notification by the local agency shall be destroyed.
104 All optically scanned fingerprints shall be destroyed upon completion of the criminal history records
105 check without requiring that the applicant be notified. Fingerprints taken for the purposes described in
106 this section shall not be copied, held or used for any other purposes. The court shall issue the permit
107 within 45 days of receipt of the completed application unless it is determined that the applicant is
108 disqualified. Any order denying issuance of the permit shall state the basis for the denial of the permit
109 and the applicant's right to and the requirements for perfecting an appeal of such order pursuant to
110 subsection L. An application is deemed complete when all information required to be furnished by the
111 applicant is delivered to and received by the clerk of court before or concomitant with the conduct of a
112 state or national criminal history records check. If the court has not issued the permit or determined that
113 the applicant is disqualified within 45 days of the date of receipt noted on the application, the clerk shall
114 certify on the application that the 45-day period has expired, and send a copy of the certified application
115 to the applicant. The certified application shall serve as a de facto permit, which shall expire 90 days
116 after issuance, and shall be recognized as a valid concealed handgun permit when presented with a valid
117 government-issued photo identification pursuant to subsection H, until the court issues a five-year permit
118 or finds the applicant to be disqualified. If the applicant is found to be disqualified after the de facto
119 permit is issued, the applicant shall surrender the de facto permit to the court and the disqualification
120 shall be deemed a denial of the permit and a revocation of the de facto permit. If the applicant is later

found by the court to be disqualified after a five-year permit has been issued, the permit shall be revoked. The clerk of court may withhold from public disclosure the social security number contained in a permit application in response to a request to inspect or copy any such permit application, except that such social security number shall not be withheld from any law-enforcement officer acting in the performance of his official duties.

E. The following persons shall be deemed disqualified from obtaining a permit:

1. An individual who is ineligible to possess a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:1, 18.2-308.1:2 or 18.2-308.1:3 or the substantially similar law of any other state or of the United States.

2. An individual who was ineligible to possess a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:1 and who was discharged from the custody of the Commissioner pursuant to § 19.2-182.7 less than five years before the date of his application for a concealed handgun permit.

3. An individual who was ineligible to possess a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:2 and whose competency or capacity was restored pursuant to § 37.2-1012 less than five years before the date of his application for a concealed handgun permit.

4. An individual who was ineligible to possess a firearm under § 18.2-308.1:3 and who was released from commitment less than five years before the date of this application for a concealed handgun permit.

5. An individual who is subject to a restraining order, or to a protective order and prohibited by § 18.2-308.1:4 from purchasing or transporting a firearm.

6. An individual who is prohibited by § 18.2-308.2 from possessing or transporting a firearm, except that a permit may be obtained in accordance with subsection C of that section.

7. An individual who has been convicted of two or more misdemeanors within the five-year period immediately preceding the application, if one of the misdemeanors was a Class 1 misdemeanor, but the judge shall have the discretion to deny a permit for two or more misdemeanors that are not Class 1. Traffic infractions and misdemeanors set forth in Title 46.2 shall not be considered for purposes of this disqualification.

8. An individual who is addicted to, or is an unlawful user or distributor of, marijuana or any controlled substance.

9. An individual who has been convicted of a violation of § 18.2-266 or a substantially similar local ordinance or of public drunkenness within the three-year period immediately preceding the application, or who is a habitual drunkard as determined pursuant to § 4.1-333.

10. An alien other than an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

11. An individual who has been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States under dishonorable conditions.

12. An individual who is a fugitive from justice.

13. An individual who the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, based on specific acts by the applicant, is likely to use a weapon unlawfully or negligently to endanger others. The sheriff, chief of police, or attorney for the Commonwealth may submit to the court a sworn written statement indicating that, in the opinion of such sheriff, chief of police, or attorney for the Commonwealth, based upon the specific acts set forth in the statement, the applicant is likely to use a weapon unlawfully or negligently to endanger others. The statement of the sheriff, chief of police, or the attorney for the Commonwealth shall be based upon personal knowledge of the specific acts, or upon a written statement made under oath before a notary public of a competent person having personal knowledge of the specific acts.

14. An individual who has been convicted of any assault, assault and battery, sexual battery, discharging of a firearm in violation of § 18.2-280 or 18.2-286.1 or brandishing of a firearm in violation of § 18.2-282 within the three-year period immediately preceding the application.

15. An individual who has been convicted of stalking.

16. An individual whose previous convictions or adjudications of delinquency were based on an offense which would have been at the time of conviction a felony if committed by an adult under the laws of any state, the District of Columbia, the United States or its territories. For purposes of this disqualifier, only convictions occurring within 16 years following the later of the date of (i) the conviction or adjudication or (ii) release from any incarceration imposed upon such conviction or adjudication shall be deemed to be "previous convictions."

17. An individual who has a felony charge pending or a charge pending for an offense listed in subdivision 14 or 15.

18. An individual who has received mental health treatment or substance abuse treatment in a residential setting within five years prior to the date of his application for a concealed handgun permit.

19. An individual not otherwise ineligible pursuant to this section, who, within the three-year period immediately preceding the application for the permit, was found guilty of any criminal offense set forth in Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of this title or of a criminal offense of illegal possession

182 or distribution of marijuana or any controlled substance, under the laws of any state, the District of
183 Columbia, or the United States or its territories.

184 20. An individual, not otherwise ineligible pursuant to this section, with respect to whom, within the
185 three-year period immediately preceding the application, upon a charge of any criminal offense set forth
186 in Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of this title or upon a charge of illegal possession or
187 distribution of marijuana or any controlled substance under the laws of any state, the District of
188 Columbia, or the United States or its territories, the trial court found that the facts of the case were
189 sufficient for a finding of guilt and disposed of the case pursuant to § 18.2-251 or the substantially
190 similar law of any other state, the District of Columbia, or the United States or its territories.

191 F. The making of a materially false statement in an application under this section shall constitute
192 perjury, punishable as provided in § 18.2-434.

193 G. The court shall require proof that the applicant has demonstrated competence with a handgun and
194 the applicant may demonstrate such competence by one of the following, but no applicant shall be
195 required to submit to any additional demonstration of competence:

196 1. Completing any hunter education or hunter safety course approved by the Department of Game
197 and Inland Fisheries or a similar agency of another state;

198 2. Completing any National Rifle Association firearms safety or training course;

199 3. Completing any firearms safety or training course or class available to the general public offered
200 by a law-enforcement agency, junior college, college, or private or public institution or organization or
201 firearms training school utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or the
202 Department of Criminal Justice Services;

203 4. Completing any law-enforcement firearms safety or training course or class offered for security
204 guards, investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of law enforcement or security
205 enforcement;

206 5. Presenting evidence of equivalent experience with a firearm through participation in organized
207 shooting competition or current military service or proof of an honorable discharge from any branch of
208 the armed services;

209 6. Obtaining or previously having held a license to carry a firearm in the Commonwealth or a
210 locality thereof, unless such license has been revoked for cause;

211 7. Completing any firearms training or safety course or class conducted by a state-certified or
212 National Rifle Association-certified firearms instructor;

213 8. Completing any governmental police agency firearms training course and qualifying to carry a
214 firearm in the course of normal police duties; or

215 9. Completing any other firearms training which the court deems adequate.

216 A photocopy of a certificate of completion of any of the courses or classes; an affidavit from the
217 instructor, school, club, organization, or group that conducted or taught such course or class attesting to
218 the completion of the course or class by the applicant; or a copy of any document which shows
219 completion of the course or class or evidences participation in firearms competition shall constitute
220 evidence of qualification under this subsection.

221 H. The permit to carry a concealed handgun shall specify only the following information: name,
222 address, date of birth, gender, height, weight, color of hair, color of eyes, and signature of the permittee;
223 the signature of the judge issuing the permit, or of the clerk of court who has been authorized to sign
224 such permits by the issuing judge; the date of issuance; and the expiration date. The permit to carry a
225 concealed handgun shall be no larger than two inches wide by three and one-fourth inches long and
226 shall be of a uniform style prescribed by the Department of State Police. The person issued the permit
227 shall have such permit on his person at all times during which he is carrying a concealed handgun and
228 shall display the permit and a photo-identification issued by a government agency of the Commonwealth
229 or by the United States Department of Defense or United States State Department (passport) upon
230 demand by a law-enforcement officer.

231 I. Persons who previously have held a concealed handgun permit shall be issued, upon application as
232 provided in subsection D, a new five-year permit unless there is good cause shown for refusing to
233 reissue a permit. If the circuit court denies the permit, the specific reasons for the denial shall be stated
234 in the order of the court denying the permit. Upon denial of the application, the clerk shall provide the
235 person with notice, in writing, of his right to an ore tenus hearing. Upon request of the applicant made
236 within 21 days, the court shall place the matter on the docket for an ore tenus hearing. The applicant
237 may be represented by counsel, but counsel shall not be appointed, and the rules of evidence shall
238 apply. The final order of the court shall include the court's findings of fact and conclusions of law.

239 J. Any person convicted of an offense that would disqualify that person from obtaining a permit
240 under subsection E or who violates subsection F shall forfeit his permit for a concealed handgun and
241 surrender it to the court. Upon receipt by the Central Criminal Records Exchange of a record of the
242 arrest, conviction or occurrence of any other event that would disqualify a person from obtaining a
243 concealed handgun permit under subsection E, the Central Criminal Records Exchange shall notify the

244 court having issued the permit of such disqualifying arrest, conviction or other event.

245 J1. Any person permitted to carry a concealed handgun, who is under the influence of alcohol or
 246 illegal drugs while carrying such handgun in a public place, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.
 247 Conviction of any of the following offenses shall be prima facie evidence, subject to rebuttal, that the
 248 person is "under the influence" for purposes of this section: manslaughter in violation of § 18.2-36.1,
 249 maiming in violation of § 18.2-51.4, driving while intoxicated in violation of § 18.2-266, public
 250 intoxication in violation of § 18.2-388, or driving while intoxicated in violation of § 46.2-341.24. Upon
 251 such conviction that court shall revoke the person's permit for a concealed handgun and promptly notify
 252 the issuing circuit court. A person convicted of a violation of this subsection shall be ineligible to apply
 253 for a concealed handgun permit for a period of five years.

254 J2. An individual who has a felony charge pending or a charge pending for an offense listed in
 255 subdivision E 14 or E 15, holding a permit for a concealed handgun, may have the permit suspended by
 256 the court before which such charge is pending or by the court that issued the permit.

257 J3. No person shall carry a concealed handgun onto the premises of any restaurant or club as defined
 258 in § 4.1-100 for which a license to sell and serve alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption has
 259 been granted by the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board under Title 4.1 of the Code of Virginia;
 260 however, nothing herein shall prohibit any sworn law-enforcement officer from carrying a concealed
 261 handgun on the premises of such restaurant or club or any owner or event sponsor or his employees
 262 from carrying a concealed handgun while on duty at such restaurant or club if such person has a
 263 concealed handgun permit.

264 J4. Any individual for whom it would be unlawful to purchase, possess or transport a firearm under
 265 § 18.2-308.1:2 or 18.2-308.1:3, who holds a concealed handgun permit, may have the permit suspended
 266 by the court that issued the permit during the period of incompetency, incapacity or disability.

267 K. No fee shall be charged for the issuance of such permit to a person who has retired from service
 268 (i) as a magistrate in the Commonwealth; (ii) as a special agent with the Alcoholic Beverage Control
 269 Board or as a law-enforcement officer with the Department of State Police, the Department of Game and
 270 Inland Fisheries, or a sheriff or police department, bureau or force of any political subdivision of the
 271 Commonwealth, after completing 15 years of service or after reaching age 55; (iii) as a law-enforcement
 272 officer with the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and
 273 Firearms, Secret Service Agency, Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Citizenship and
 274 Immigration Services, Customs Service, Department of State Diplomatic Security Service, U.S. Marshals
 275 Service or Naval Criminal Investigative Service, after completing 15 years of service or after reaching
 276 age 55; (iv) as a law-enforcement officer with any police or sheriff's department within the United
 277 States, the District of Columbia or any of the territories of the United States, after completing 15 years
 278 of service; or (v) as a law-enforcement officer with any combination of the agencies listed in clauses (ii)
 279 through (iv), after completing 15 years of service. The clerk shall charge a fee of \$10 for the processing
 280 of an application or issuing of a permit, including his costs associated with the consultation with
 281 law-enforcement agencies. The local law-enforcement agency conducting the background investigation
 282 may charge a fee not to exceed \$35 to cover the cost of conducting an investigation pursuant to this
 283 section. The \$35 fee shall include any amount assessed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for
 284 providing criminal history record information, and the local law-enforcement agency shall forward the
 285 amount assessed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the State Police with the fingerprints taken
 286 from the applicant. The State Police may charge a fee not to exceed \$5 to cover their costs associated
 287 with processing the application. The total amount assessed for processing an application for a permit
 288 shall not exceed \$50, with such fees to be paid in one sum to the person who accepts the application.
 289 Payment may be made by any method accepted by that court for payment of other fees or penalties. No
 290 payment shall be required until the application is accepted by the court as a complete application. The
 291 order issuing such permit, or the copy of the permit application certified by the clerk as a de facto
 292 permit pursuant to subsection D, shall be provided to the State Police and the law-enforcement agencies
 293 of the county or city. The State Police shall enter the permittee's name and description in the Virginia
 294 Criminal Information Network so that the permit's existence and current status will be made known to
 295 law-enforcement personnel accessing the Network for investigative purposes.

296 L. Any person denied a permit to carry a concealed handgun under the provisions of this section
 297 may present a petition for review to the Court of Appeals. The petition for review shall be filed within
 298 60 days of the expiration of the time for requesting an ore tenus hearing pursuant to subsection I, or if
 299 an ore tenus hearing is requested, within 60 days of the entry of the final order of the circuit court
 300 following the hearing. The petition shall be accompanied by a copy of the original papers filed in the
 301 circuit court, including a copy of the order of the circuit court denying the permit. Subject to the
 302 provisions of subsection B of § 17.1-410, the decision of the Court of Appeals or judge shall be final.
 303 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the decision to deny the permit is reversed upon appeal,
 304 taxable costs incurred by the person shall be paid by the Commonwealth.

305 M. For purposes of this section:

306 "Handgun" means any pistol or revolver or other firearm, except a machine gun, originally designed,
307 made and intended to fire a projectile by means of an explosion of a combustible material from one or
308 more barrels when held in one hand.

309 "Lawfully admitted for permanent residence" means the status of having been lawfully accorded the
310 privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant in accordance with the
311 immigration laws, such status not having changed.

312 "Law-enforcement officer" means those individuals defined as a law-enforcement officer in § 9.1-101,
313 campus police officers appointed pursuant to Chapter 17 (§ 23-232 et seq.) of Title 23, law-enforcement
314 agents of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and federal
315 agents who are otherwise authorized to carry weapons by federal law. "Law-enforcement officer" shall
316 also mean any sworn full-time law-enforcement officer employed by a law-enforcement agency of the
317 United States or any state or political subdivision thereof, whose duties are substantially similar to those
318 set forth in § 9.1-101.

319 N. As used in this article:

320 "Ballistic knife" means any knife with a detachable blade that is propelled by a spring-operated
321 mechanism.

322 "Spring stick" means a spring-loaded metal stick activated by pushing a button which rapidly and
323 forcefully telescopes the weapon to several times its original length.

324 O. The granting of a concealed handgun permit shall not thereby authorize the possession of any
325 handgun or other weapon on property or in places where such possession is otherwise prohibited by law
326 or is prohibited by the owner of private property.

327 P. A valid concealed handgun or concealed weapon permit or license issued by another state shall
328 authorize the holder of such permit or license who is at least 21 years of age to carry a concealed
329 handgun in the Commonwealth, provided (i) the issuing authority provides the means for instantaneous
330 verification of the validity of all such permits or licenses issued within that state, accessible 24 hours a
331 day, and (ii) except for the age of the permit or license holder and the type of weapon authorized to be
332 carried, the requirements and qualifications of that state's law are adequate to prevent possession of a
333 permit or license by persons who would be denied a permit in the Commonwealth under this section.
334 The Superintendent of State Police shall (a) in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General
335 determine whether states meet the requirements and qualifications of this section, (b) maintain a registry
336 of such states on the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN), and (c) make the registry available
337 to law-enforcement officers for investigative purposes. The Superintendent of the State Police, in
338 consultation with the Attorney General, may also enter into agreements for reciprocal recognition with
339 any state qualifying for recognition under this subsection.

340 P1. Nonresidents of the Commonwealth 21 years of age or older may apply in writing to the
341 Virginia Department of State Police for a five-year permit to carry a concealed handgun. Every applicant
342 for a nonresident concealed handgun permit shall submit two photographs of a type and kind specified
343 by the Department of State Police for inclusion on the permit and shall submit fingerprints on a card
344 provided by the Department of State Police for the purpose of obtaining the applicant's state or national
345 criminal history record. As a condition for issuance of a concealed handgun permit, the applicant shall
346 submit to fingerprinting by his local or state law-enforcement agency and provide personal descriptive
347 information to be forwarded with the fingerprints through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the
348 Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information
349 regarding the applicant and obtaining fingerprint identification information from federal records pursuant
350 to criminal investigations by state and local law-enforcement agencies. The application shall be made
351 under oath before a notary or other person qualified to take oaths on a form provided by the Department
352 of State Police, requiring only that information necessary to determine eligibility for the permit. If the
353 permittee is later found by the Department of State Police to be disqualified, the permit shall be revoked
354 and the person shall return the permit after being so notified by the Department of State Police. The
355 permit requirement and restriction provisions of subsections E and F shall apply, mutatus mutandis, to
356 the provisions of this subsection.

357 The applicant shall demonstrate competence with a handgun by one of the following:

358 1. Completing a hunter education or hunter safety course approved by the Virginia Department of
359 Game and Inland Fisheries or a similar agency of another state;

360 2. Completing any National Rifle Association firearms safety or training course;

361 3. Completing any firearms safety or training course or class available to the general public offered
362 by a law-enforcement agency, junior college, college, or private or public institution or organization or
363 firearms training school utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or the
364 Department of Criminal Justice Services or a similar agency of another state;

365 4. Completing any law-enforcement firearms safety or training course or class offered for security
366 guards, investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of law enforcement or security

enforcement;

5. Presenting evidence of equivalent experience with a firearm through participation in organized shooting competition approved by the Department of State Police or current military service or proof of an honorable discharge from any branch of the armed services;

6. (Effective until October 1, 2005) Obtaining or previously having held a license to carry a firearm in this Commonwealth or a locality thereof, unless such license has been revoked for cause;

6. (Effective October 1, 2005) Obtaining or previously having held a license to carry a firearm in the Commonwealth or a locality thereof, unless such license has been revoked for cause;

7. Completing any firearms training or safety course or class conducted by a state-certified or National Rifle Association-certified firearms instructor;

8. Completing any governmental police agency firearms training course and qualifying to carry a firearm in the course of normal police duties; or

9. Completing any other firearms training that the Virginia Department of State Police deems adequate.

A photocopy of a certificate of completion of any such course or class, an affidavit from the instructor, school, club, organization, or group that conducted or taught such course or class attesting to the completion of the course or class by the applicant, or a copy of any document which shows completion of the course or class or evidences participation in firearms competition shall satisfy the requirement for demonstration of competence with a handgun.

The Department of State Police may charge a fee not to exceed \$100 to cover the cost of the background check and issuance of the permit. Any fees collected shall be deposited in a special account to be used to offset the costs of administering the nonresident concealed handgun permit program. The Department of State Police shall enter the permittee's name and description in the Virginia Criminal Information Network so that the permit's existence and current status are known to law-enforcement personnel accessing the Network for investigative purposes.

The permit to carry a concealed handgun shall contain only the following information: name, address, date of birth, gender, height, weight, color of hair, color of eyes, and photograph of the permittee; the signature of the Superintendent of the Virginia Department of State Police or his designee; the date of issuance; and the expiration date. The person to whom the permit is issued shall have such permit on his person at all times when he is carrying a concealed handgun in the Commonwealth and shall display the permit on demand by a law-enforcement officer.

The Superintendent of the State Police shall promulgate regulations, pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), for the implementation of an application process for obtaining a nonresident concealed handgun permit.

Q. A valid concealed handgun permit issued by the State of Maryland shall be valid in the Commonwealth provided, (i) the holder of the permit is licensed in the State of Maryland to perform duties substantially similar to those performed by Virginia branch pilots licensed pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 54.1-900 et seq.) of Title 54.1 and is performing such duties while in the Commonwealth, and (ii) the holder of the permit is 21 years of age or older.

R. For the purposes of participation in concealed handgun reciprocity agreements with other jurisdictions, the official government-issued law-enforcement identification card issued to an active-duty law-enforcement officer in the Commonwealth who is exempt from obtaining a concealed handgun permit under this section shall be deemed a concealed handgun permit.

S. (Repealed effective October 1, 2005) The provisions of this statute or the application thereof to any person or circumstances that are held invalid shall not affect the validity of other provisions or applications of this statute that can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications. This subsection is to reiterate § 1-17.1 and is not meant to add to or subtract from that provision.