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SENATE BILL NO. 178

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice
on February 10, 2016)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Garrett)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.014 of the Code of Virginia, relating to concealed handgun permits; reciprocity with other states.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 18.2-308.014 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-308.014. Concealed handgun permits; reciprocity.

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

B. A valid concealed handgun permit issued by Maryland shall be valid in the Commonwealth, provided (i) the holder of the permit is licensed in 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.

C. 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 article shall be deemed a concealed handgun permit.