

Concealed Weapon Permit Reciprocity Packet

for the
Law and Justice Interim Committee
February 23, 2012

Department of Justice Website Summary
Current MCA Sections
Permit and Reciprocity - Maps by USA Carry
Federal Legislation Update - National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act

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Concealed Weapons



Division of Criminal Investigation > Concealed Weapons

Montana law allows people to carry concealed weapons if he or she has a valid Montana or out-of-state permit to do so.

No weapons, concealed or otherwise, are allowed in school buildings in Montana.

Even with a concealed weapons permit, you may **not** carry a concealed weapon in the following places:

- buildings owned or leased by the federal, state or local government
- financial institutions
- any place where alcoholic beverages are sold, dispensed and consumed

In addition, be sure to check local regulations, which may restrict carrying concealed weapons at public meetings, and in public parks and buildings.

County sheriffs can provide information on where concealed weapons are prohibited in their counties.

Montana has no prohibitions against carrying a weapon in a motor vehicle.

Montana Residents

To obtain a Montana concealed weapons permit, a person must:

- have been a Montana resident for at least six months

- be a U.S. citizen
- be at least 18 years old

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Applications are available from the local county sheriff's office. This site provides a [sample application](#) so people can review what is required and gather the necessary documentation prior to going to their sheriff's office. The form is clearly marked as a "sample only" and cannot be used in place of the application provided by the local sheriff's office.

Montana residents who want to know if their permits are valid in another state must check with the specific state in which they want to carry a weapon.

Non-Residents

Montana recognizes concealed weapons permits from some other states. Non-residents must meet the following criteria to carry a concealed weapon in Montana:

- The state that issued their permit must require a criminal records background check before issuing a permit.
- The permit must be in the holder's possession.
- The permit holder must have photo identification.

The Attorney General's Office has determined that concealed weapons permits from the following states are recognized under Montana law:

Alaska
 Arizona
 Arkansas
 California
 Colorado
 Connecticut
 Florida
 Georgia
 Idaho
 Indiana
 Iowa
 Kansas
 Kentucky
 Louisiana

Maryland
 Massachusetts
 Michigan
 Minnesota
 Mississippi
 Missouri
 Nebraska
 Nevada
 New Jersey
 New Mexico
 New York
 North Carolina
 North Dakota
 Ohio

Oklahoma
 Oregon
 Pennsylvania
 South Carolina
 South Dakota
 Tennessee
 Texas
 Utah
 Virginia
 Washington
 West Virginia
 Wisconsin
 Wyoming

People who hold permits from the following states may not carry concealed weapons in Montana because their state laws do not expressly require background checks of permit applicants:

Alabama
 Delaware
 District of Columbia

Hawaii
 Maine
 New Hampshire

Rhode Island

45-8-322. Application, renewal, permit, and fees. (1) The application form must be readily available at the sheriff's office and must read as follows:

CONCEALED WEAPON PERMIT APPLICATION

To be completed by each person making application:

RESIDENT OF MONTANA AT LEAST 6 MONTHS Yes No

CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES Yes No

18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER Yes No

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

Full name:

Last First Middle

Alias/Maiden/Nickname:

Address: Home: Zip

Employer: Zip

Phone: / /

Home Employer Message

Place of birth:..... Date of birth:

Driver's license #:..... Issuing state:

Social Security #:.....

Sex Ht. Wt. Eyes Hair

LIST EACH FORMER EMPLOYER OR BUSINESS ENGAGED IN FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS:

Employer or

business name Address Dates of employment 1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

LIST EACH PLACE IN WHICH YOU HAVE LIVED FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS:

City State Dates of residence

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

MILITARY SERVICE, BRANCH FROM TO

TYPE OF DISCHARGE RANK UPON DISCHARGE

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED FOR OR CONVICTED OF A CRIME OR FOUND GUILTY IN A COURT-MARTIAL PROCEEDING?

YES NO

IF YES, COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING (Exceptions: minor traffic violations) (Attach additional sheet if necessary):

City State Charge Date

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

LIST THREE PERSONS WHOM YOU HAVE KNOWN FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS THAT WILL BE CREDIBLE WITNESSES TO YOUR GOOD MORAL CHARACTER AND PEACEABLE DISPOSITION (DO NOT include relatives or present/past employers):

Name Address Phone

1.
2.
3.

PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR REASONS FOR REQUESTING THIS PERMIT (Attach additional sheet if necessary):

.....

I, the undersigned applicant, swear that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and is given with the full knowledge that any misstatement may be sufficient cause for denial or revocation of a permit to carry a concealed weapon. I authorize any person having information concerning me that relates to the information requested by this application and the requirements for a concealed weapon permit, either public record or otherwise, to furnish it to the sheriff to whom this application is made.

.....
 Signature

.....
 Date of application

This application must be signed in the presence of the sheriff or a designee.

(2) The application must be in triplicate. The applicant must be given the original at the time the completed application is filed with the sheriff, the sheriff shall keep a copy for at least 4 years, and a copy must, within 7 days of the sheriff's receipt of the application, be mailed to the chief of police if the applicant resides in a city or town with a police force.

(3) The fee for issuance of a permit is \$50. The permit must be renewed for additional 4-year periods upon payment of a \$25 fee for each renewal and upon request for renewal made within 90 days before expiration of the permit. The permit and each renewal must be in triplicate, in a form prescribed by the department of justice, and must, at a minimum, include the name, address, physical description, signature, driver's license number, state identification card number, or tribal identification card number, and a picture of the permittee. A person in the United States armed forces satisfies the requirement of submitting a picture if the person submits pictures of the front of the person's military identification card and the person's Montana driver's license. The permit must state that federal and state laws on possession of firearms and other weapons differ and that a person who violates the federal law may be prosecuted in federal court and the Montana permit will not be a defense. The permittee must be given the original, and the sheriff shall keep a copy and send a copy to the department of justice, which shall keep a central repository record of all permits. Replacement of a lost permit must be treated as a renewal under this subsection.

(4) The sheriff shall conduct a background check of an applicant to determine whether the applicant is eligible for a permit under 45-8-321, may require an applicant to submit the applicant's fingerprints, and may charge the applicant \$5 for fingerprinting.

(5) Permit, background, and fingerprinting fees may be retained by the sheriff and used to implement 45-8-321 through 45-8-325.

(6) A state or local government law enforcement agency or other agency or any of its officers or employees may not request a permittee to voluntarily submit information in addition to that required on an application and permit.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 759, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 581, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 180, L. 2007.

Compiler's Comments:

2007 Amendment: Chapter 180 in (3) near end of third sentence after "driver's license" inserted "number" and inserted "or tribal identification card number"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2007.

1999 Amendment: Chapter 581 in (1) in form in section requiring reasons for requesting permit at beginning of caption deleted "IN COMPLETE DETAIL"; inserted fourth sentence in (3) providing that submitting pictures of front of military identification card and driver's license by member of armed forces

satisfies requirement to submit picture; in (4) before "background" deleted "criminal record and" and after "applicant" inserted "to determine whether the applicant is eligible for a permit under 45-8-321"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 1999.

45-8-323. Denial of renewal -- revocation of permit. A permit to carry a concealed weapon may be revoked or its renewal denied by the sheriff of the county in which the permittee resides if circumstances arise that would require the sheriff to refuse to grant the permittee an original license.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 759, L. 1991.

45-8-324. Appeal. The denial or revocation of a permit to carry a concealed weapon or refusal of a renewal is subject to appeal to the district court, which may consider and determine facts as well as law and which is not bound by any factual, legal, or other determination of the sheriff, and from that court to the Montana supreme court. To the extent applicable, Title 25, chapter 33, governs the appeal.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 759, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 408, L. 1995.

Compiler's Comments:

1995 Amendment: Chapter 408 in first sentence inserted "which may consider and determine facts as well as law and which is not bound by any factual, legal, or other determination of the sheriff"; and at end inserted "To the extent applicable, Title 25, chapter 33, governs the appeal."

45-8-325. Permittee change of county of residence -- notification to sheriffs and chief of police. A person with a permit to carry a concealed weapon who changes the person's county of residence shall within 10 days of the change inform the sheriffs of both the old and new counties of residence of the change of residence and that the person holds the permit. If the person's residence changes either from or to a city or town with a police force, the person shall also inform the chief of police in each of those cities or towns that has a police force.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 759, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1709, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Compiler's Comments:

2009 Amendment: Chapter 56 made section gender neutral. Amendment effective October 1, 2009.

45-8-326. Immunity from liability. A sheriff, employee of a sheriff's office, or county is not liable for damages in a civil action by a person or entity claiming death, personal injury, or property damage arising from alleged wrongful or improper grant of, renewal of, or failure to revoke a permit to carry a concealed weapon, except for actions that constitute willful misconduct or gross negligence.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 759, L. 1991.

Compiler's Comments:

Immunity From Suit: Section 13, Ch. 759, L. 1991, mandating a two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature to enact 45-8-326, which granted a Sheriff, employee of a Sheriff's office, or county immunity from suit by a person claiming death or injury or property damage arising from improper granting of, renewal of, or failure to revoke a permit to carry a concealed weapon, was not codified because the section was purely procedural.

45-8-327. Carrying concealed weapon while under influence. A person commits the offense of carrying a concealed weapon while under the influence if the person purposely or knowingly carries a concealed weapon while under the influence of an intoxicating substance. It is not a defense that the person had a valid permit to carry a concealed weapon. A person convicted of the offense shall be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months or be fined an amount not to exceed \$500, or both.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 759, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1710, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Compiler's Comments:

2009 Amendment: Chapter 56 made section gender neutral. Amendment effective October 1, 2009.

45-8-328. Carrying concealed weapon in prohibited place -- penalty. (1) Except for legislative security officers authorized to carry a concealed weapon in the state capitol as provided in 45-8-317(1)(k), a person commits the offense of carrying a concealed weapon in a prohibited place if the person purposely or knowingly carries a concealed weapon in:

(a) portions of a building used for state or local government offices and related areas in the building that have been restricted;

(b) a bank, credit union, savings and loan institution, or similar institution during the institution's normal business hours. It is not an offense under this section to carry a concealed weapon while:

(i) using an institution's drive-up window, automatic teller machine, or unstaffed night depository; or

(ii) at or near a branch office of an institution in a mall, grocery store, or other place unless the person is inside the enclosure used for the institution's financial services or is using the institution's financial services.

(c) a room in which alcoholic beverages are sold, dispensed, and consumed under a license issued under Title 16 for the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises.

(2) It is not a defense that the person had a valid permit to carry a concealed weapon. A person convicted of the offense shall be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months or fined an amount not to exceed \$500, or both.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 759, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 572, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 384, L. 2011.

Compiler's Comments:

2011 Amendment: Chapter 384 in (1) inserted exception clause; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2011.

1999 Amendment: Chapter 572 in (1)(a) substituted "portions of a building used for state or local government offices and related areas in the building that have been restricted" for former text that read: "a building owned or leased by the federal, state, or local government"; in (1)(b) near beginning of introductory clause after "similar institution" inserted "during the institution's normal business hours. It is not an offense under this section to carry a concealed weapon while:

(i) using an institution's drive-up window, automatic teller machine, or unstaffed night depository; or

(ii) at or near a branch office of an institution in a mall, grocery store, or other place unless the person is inside the enclosure used for the institution's financial services or is using the institution's financial services"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 1999.

Cross References:

Offense defined, 45-2-101.

45-8-329. Concealed weapon permits from other states recognized -- advisory council. (1) A concealed weapon permit from another state is valid in this state if:

(a) the person issued the permit has the permit in the person's immediate possession;

(b) the person bearing the permit is also in possession of an official photo identification of the person, whether on the permit or on other identification; and

(c) the state that issued the permit requires a criminal records background check of permit applicants prior to issuance of a permit.

(2) The attorney general shall develop and maintain a list of states from which permits are recognized under this section for the use by law enforcement agencies in this state.

(3) A determination or declaration of a Montana government entity, official, or employee is not necessary to the existence and exercise of the privilege granted by this section.

(4) The governor shall establish a council, composed of interested persons, including law enforcement personnel and gun owners, to advise the governor on and pursue concealed weapon permit issues.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 408, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 1999.

Compiler's Comments:

1999 Amendment: Chapter 476 substituted (1) through (3) regarding validity of concealed weapon permit from another state for former text that read: "The governor may negotiate concealed weapon permit reciprocity agreements with other states that have concealed weapon permit laws similar to those of Montana"; in (4) at end after "pursue" substituted "concealed weapon permit issues" for "reciprocity issues and agreements"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 1999.

45-8-330. (Temporary) Exemption of concealed weapon permittee from federal handgun purchase background check and waiting period. A person possessing a concealed weapon permit is:

(1) considered to have a permit constituting completion of the background check required by 18 U.S.C. 921 through 925A; and

(2) exempt from that act's 5-day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun. (*Subsections (1) and (2) terminate on the elimination of federal statutory or case law requirements--sec. 5, Ch. 408, L. 1995.*)

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 408, L. 1995.

Compiler's Comments:

Contingent Termination: Section 5, Ch. 408, L. 1995, provided that subsection (1) terminates on the date on which the Governor certifies that the federal background check referred to in subsection (1) is no longer required by federal statutory or case law and that subsection (2) terminates on the date on which the Governor certifies that the federal 5-day waiting period referred to in subsection (2) is no longer required by federal statutory or case law.

Purported Enactment -- Coordination Instruction: Section 3, Ch. 289, L. 1995, provided: "If House Bill No. 232 is passed and approved with a provision exempting a concealed weapon permittee from the federal handgun purchase background check and 5-day waiting period, then [this act] [approved as Ch. 289, L. 1995] is void." House Bill No. 232 was approved April 13, 1995, as Ch. 408, L. 1995, and included a section exempting a concealed weapon permittee from the federal handgun purchase background check and 5-day waiting period; therefore, sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 1995, which purported to enact a section waiving the 5-day handgun purchase waiting period, is void.

Reference in Text: The reference in subsection (1) to 18 U.S.C. 921 through 925A is to part of the federal statute commonly known as the "Brady Bill".

States That Honor My Permit(s)

Permits Honored by State

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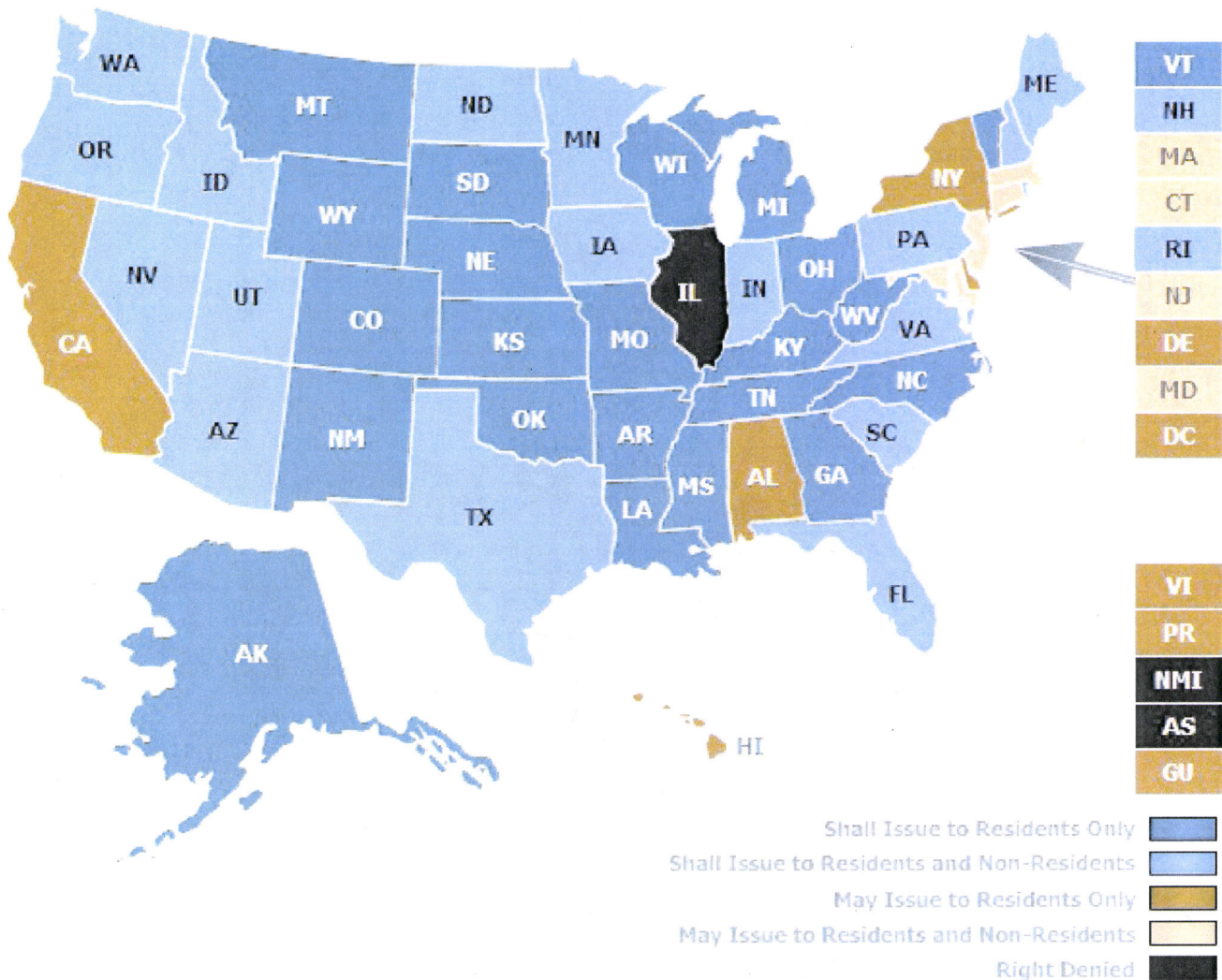
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State Permit Issue Status

By selecting this view, you will be shown which state permits are valid in a selected state.



Shall Issue to Residents Only:

Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Shall Issue to Residents and Non-Residents:

Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington

May Issue to Residents Only:

Alabama, California, Delaware, Hawaii, New York, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, District of Columbia

May Issue to Residents and Non-Residents:

Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey

Right Denied:

Illinois, American Samoa, N. Mariana Islands

Brought to you by:



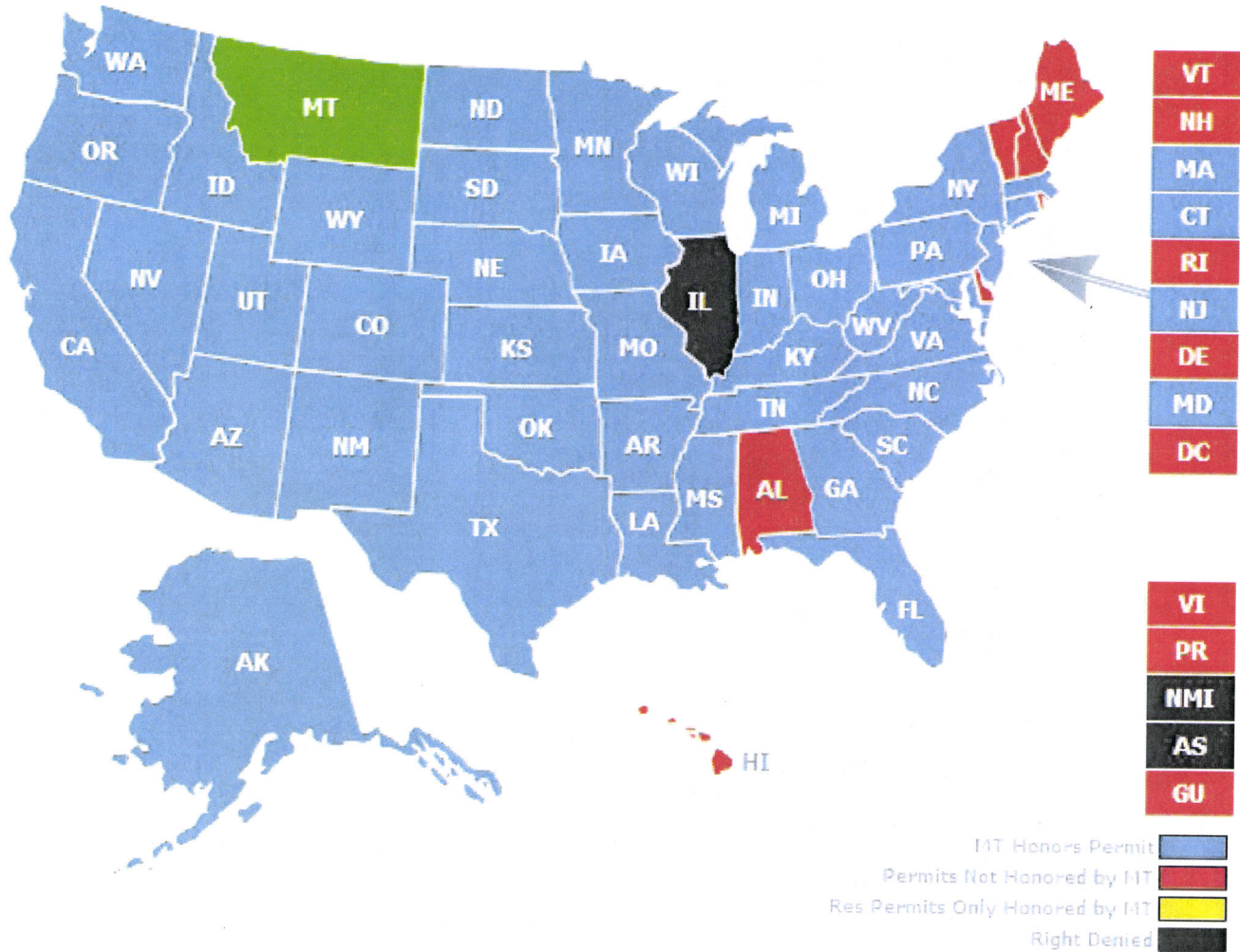
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Current View: Permits Honored By Montana

By selecting this view, you will be shown which state permits are valid in a selected state



Honors MT Permit:

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

MT Permit Not Honored:

Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, District of Columbia

Right Denied:

Illinois, American Samoa, N. Mariana Islands

States That Honor My Permit(s)

Permits Honored by State

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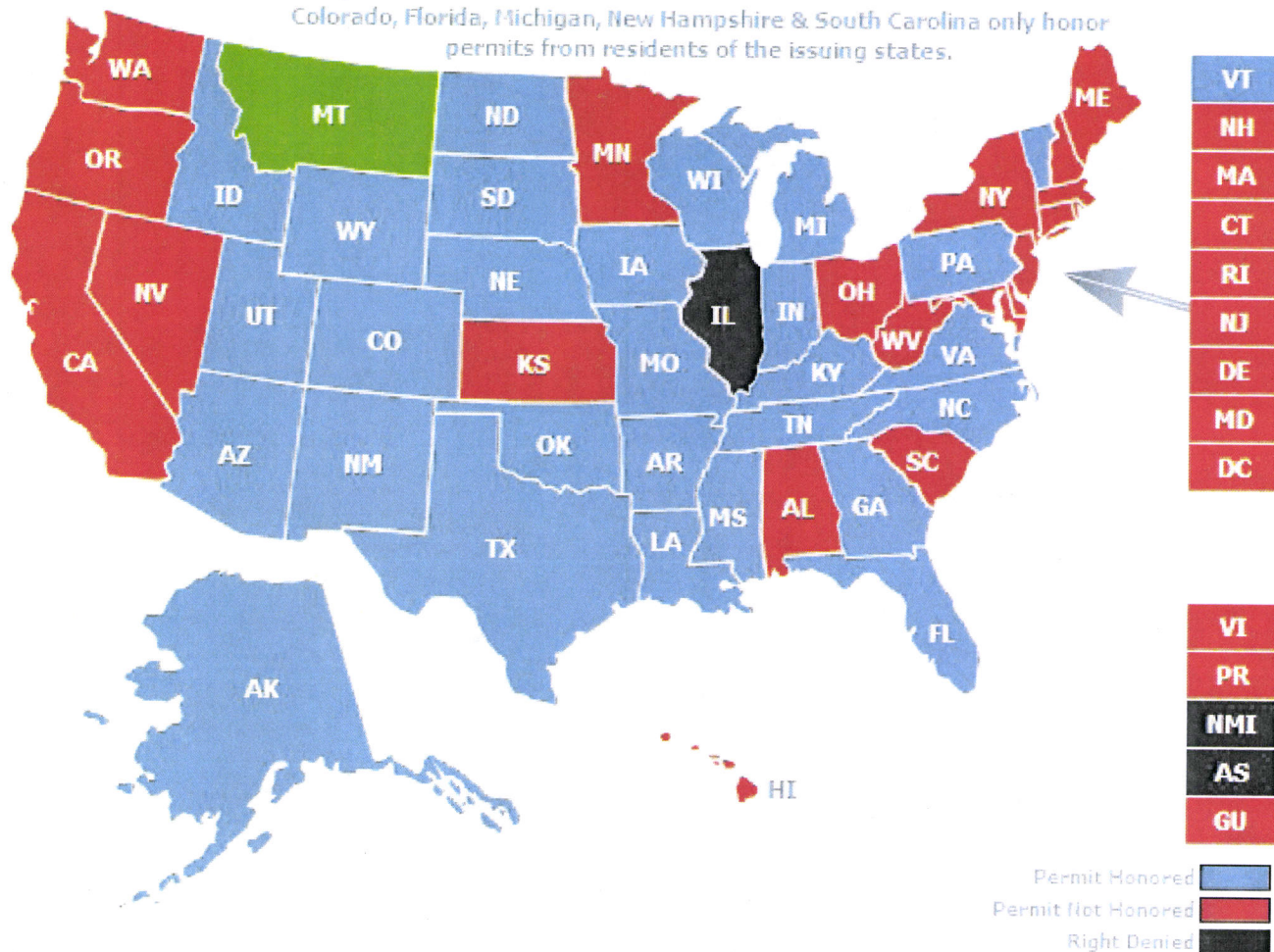
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States That Honor My Permit(s)

Clear Map

Please select your state of residence first and then all other states you have a concealed firearm permit in. To deselect states, just click them again.

Colorado, Florida, Michigan, New Hampshire & South Carolina only honor permits from residents of the issuing states.



Permit Honored:

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Permit Not Honored:

Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Washington, West Virginia, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, District of Columbia

Right Denied:

Illinois, American Samoa, N. Mariana Islands

Summary of Federal Legislation National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011

Source: Committee on the Judiciary,
Report 112, November 10, 2011
House of Representatives, 112th Congress, 1st Session

Summary

H.R. 822 allows persons with valid state-issued concealed firearm permits or licenses to carry a concealed firearm in any other state that also issues concealed firearm permits or licenses, or in any other state that does not generally prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms.

Latest Action

H.R. 822 passed the House on November 11, 2011. The Senate is still deliberating the bill.

Committee Report Summary of State Laws

Forty-nine states currently permit concealed carry in some manner.

Thirty-five states have “shall issue” permit laws, which generally require states to issue a concealed carry permit or license to people who meet the legal requirements.

Ten states—plus the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam—have “may issue” or discretionary permit laws that are administered in varying ways. Four states—Vermont, Arizona, Alaska, and Wyoming—permit the carrying of a concealed weapon without any permit or license (although Arizona, Alaska, and Wyoming also have a permitting process in place). Illinois, the District of Columbia, the Northern Marianas Islands, and American Samoa prohibit concealed carry.

Twenty-five states allow non-residents to apply for a concealed carry permit or license, and Vermont allows non-residents to carry without a permit while in the state. In most instances, the process for permitting in-state and out-of-state persons is the same. However, some states apply a stricter permitting process to out-of-state residents, including requiring that the person have a valid concealed carry permit from their home state.

A majority of states currently extend reciprocal concealed carry privileges to varying degrees to the residents of other states. Fourteen states grant outright recognition of all valid permits issued by another state.

Ten states automatically recognize permits from other states that also recognize their permits.

Sixteen states will recognize another state's concealed carry permit if certain conditions are met.

Only ten states do not recognize a concealed carry permit issued by another state in any circumstance, although many of these states do allow non-residents to apply for permits to carry a concealed handgun in the state.

Proponent Arguments in Majority Committee Report

H.R. 822 would allow persons with valid state-issued concealed firearm permits or licenses to carry a concealed firearm in all other states that also issue concealed firearm permits or licenses, or in any other state that does not generally prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms. This legislation would not create a national licensing scheme, but rather would require states that currently permit people to carry concealed firearms to recognize other states' valid concealed carry permits.

H.R. 822, as clarified by the substitute manager's amendment, does not affect a state's ability to set eligibility requirements for its own residents. The bill instead makes clear that a person cannot use this Federal grant of reciprocity to carry a concealed weapon in his or her own state of residence under another state's permit or license, unless their own state's laws permit this. H.R. 822 also does not impact state laws governing how concealed firearms are possessed or carried within the various states.

All state, federal, and local laws regarding the possession and carrying of a concealed handgun that would apply to a resident of a state will also apply in equal force to a non-resident. A non-resident who is able to show both a valid identification document and a valid concealed carry permit or license will be permitted to carry a concealed firearm in the same manner as a resident holding a general-use permit or license.

H.R. 822 addresses concerns regarding law enforcement's ability to confirm the validity of an out-of-state concealed carry permit by requiring that a person show both a valid government-issued identification document, such as a license or passport, and a valid concealed carry license or permit. The states are also currently able to verify the validity of out-of-state concealed permits. The Nlets system, formerly the National Law Enforcement Teletype System, permits federal, state, and local law enforcement to query handgun permit information for 12 states that have elected to participate in

the program. Law enforcement can also use Nlets to send inquiries regarding concealed carry permits directly to out-of-state agencies that issue permits but do not participate in the Nlets concealed carry program. Forty states currently grant some form of reciprocity for out-of-state concealed carry permits and all of the states are subject to the Firearms Owners' Protection Act's Safe Passage Provision, codified at 18 U.S.C. § 926A, which provides a process by which non-residents can transport lawful firearms through states where they could not otherwise carry the firearm. Accordingly, law enforcement is already very familiar with handling and verifying firearms carried by non-residents.

Arguments of Committee Members Dissenting from Committee Report H.R. 822 would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) by preempting some state laws that limit the ability of nonresidents to carry concealed weapons. Laws allowing individuals to carry concealed weapons vary from state to state and range from allowing anyone to carry such weapons without a permit to prohibiting nonresidents from carrying concealed weapons and requiring residents to complete training and meet other conditions before obtaining a permit. Some states recognize permits issued by other states and some do not. If enacted, the bill would require states that currently do not recognize permits to carry concealed weapons issued by other states to recognize those permits for nonresidents. The costs for states to comply with that mandate would include the cost to change protocols and train law enforcement officers. The bill also could result in the loss of revenue for some states. Currently, some states issue permits to nonresidents and charge fees ranging from \$20 to \$140 for those permits. If this bill is enacted and individuals have a permit to carry concealed weapons from their resident state, they would no longer need to purchase nonresident permits in other states they visit. There is no data on how many individuals this may affect, but the loss to states that issue nonresident permits could total a few million dollars annually.

H.R. 822 disregards state laws by forcing states to allow the carrying of loaded, concealed weapons by any individual permitted to carry concealed weapons in another state. It provides that an individual who is not prohibited by federal law from possessing firearms and who is carrying a valid identification document containing a photograph of such individual and a valid concealed carry permit issued by a state, may carry a concealed handgun in another state if the other state has a statute that allows the issuance of concealed carry permits or does not prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms. Section

2(b) provides that an individual carrying a concealed handgun in a state must be permitted to carry the gun subject to “the same conditions and limitations, except as to eligibility to possess or carry,” imposed by federal, state or local law that apply to the possession or carrying of a concealed handgun by residents of that state.

In effect, the bill would reduce all states to the lowest common denominator of concealed carry laws, and would subject citizens to unnecessary public safety risks, contrary to the judgments made by the individual states.

Conclusion by Dissenting Committee Members

The answer to our national problem of gun violence is not that we need more people carrying concealed firearms on our streets. In 1 year on average, almost 100,000 people in America are shot or killed with a gun. Specifically, in 1 year, 31,224 people died from gun violence and 66,768 people survived gun injuries. Gun violence impacts society in countless ways beyond the loss of life and physical injuries to its victims: medical costs, costs of the criminal justice system, security precautions such as metal detectors, and reductions in quality of life because of fear of gun violence. These impacts are estimated to cost U.S. citizens \$100 billion annually.

We must not undermine the efforts of states to take measures to defend themselves against these harms. States are in the best position to determine which measures best protect their citizens, based on the circumstances and judgments peculiar to each state, and the Second Amendment does not confer a right to carry concealed firearms in violation of state law standards enacted to enhance public safety. If a state, for example, determines that a person convicted of misdemeanor assault on a police officer should not be allowed to carry a concealed handgun within its border, Congress should not override this important public safety decision. As Commissioner Ramsey testified before the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, “This bill would eliminate the right that states now have to set their own public safety laws, in consultation with law enforcement professionals. This legislation is not aligned with our vision for the future of policing. It is counter to what the field of law enforcement needs to create safer neighborhoods, towns and cities.”