

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2021 REGULAR SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**House Bill 2793**

BY DELEGATES HOWELL, HORST, HOTT, MARTIN, FAST,

KIMBLE, HAMRICK, REED, MAYNARD, STATLER AND

STORCH

[Passed April 7, 2021; in effect ninety days from passage.]



1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §61-7-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to permitting nonresidents to obtain state licenses to carry a concealed deadly weapon;  
3 requiring application to a county sheriff; establishing a \$100 fee and providing how that  
4 fee is to be used; providing that concealed weapons licenses may only be issued for pistols  
5 and revolvers; requiring non-residents to meet the same standards as West Virginia  
6 residents for licensure; and providing for the issuance of a new license if the resident or  
7 nonresident relocates.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 7. DANGEROUS WEAPONS.**

**§61-7-4. License to carry deadly weapons; how obtained.**

1 (a) (1) Except as provided in §61-7-4(q) of this code, a legal resident or citizen of West  
2 Virginia desiring to obtain a state resident license to carry a concealed deadly weapon shall apply  
3 to the sheriff of his or her county for the license, and pay to the sheriff, at the time of application,  
4 a fee of \$25. A concealed weapons license may only be issued for pistols and revolvers.

5 (2) A legal resident or citizen of another state of the United States desiring to obtain a  
6 nonresident state license to carry a concealed deadly weapon shall apply to a sheriff of any county  
7 in this state for the license, and pay to the sheriff, at the time of application, a fee of \$100. A  
8 concealed weapons licenses may only be issued for pistols and revolvers.

9 (b) Each applicant for a state resident license or nonresident license to carry a concealed  
10 deadly weapon shall file with the sheriff a complete application, as prepared by the  
11 Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police, in writing, duly verified, which sets forth only the  
12 following licensing requirements:

13 (1) The applicant's full name, date of birth, social security number, a description of the  
14 applicant's physical features, the applicant's place of birth, the applicant's country of citizenship,  
15 and, if the applicant is not a United States citizen, any alien or admission number issued by the

16 United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and any basis, if applicable, for  
17 an exception to the prohibitions of 18 U.S.C. §922(g)(5)(B);

18 (2) That, on the date the application is made, the applicant is a bona fide United States  
19 citizen or legal resident thereof and either a resident of this state and of the county in which the  
20 application is made or a resident of another state in the United States and has a valid driver's  
21 license or other state-issued or federally issued photo identification showing the residence;

22 (3) That the applicant is 21 years of age or older;

23 (4) That the applicant is not addicted to alcohol, a controlled substance, or a drug and is  
24 not an unlawful user thereof as evidenced by either of the following within the three years  
25 immediately prior to the application:

26 (A) Residential or court-ordered treatment for alcoholism or alcohol detoxification or drug  
27 treatment; or

28 (B) Two or more convictions for driving while under the influence or driving while impaired;

29 (5) That the applicant has not been convicted of a felony unless the conviction has been  
30 expunged or set aside, or the applicant's civil rights have been restored or the applicant has been  
31 unconditionally pardoned for the offense;

32 (6) That the applicant has not been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of violence other  
33 than an offense set forth in subdivision (7) of this subsection in the five years immediately  
34 preceding the application;

35 (7) That the applicant has not been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic  
36 violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. §921(a)(33), or a misdemeanor offense of assault or battery  
37 either under §61-2-28 of this code or §61-2-9(b) or §61-2-9(c) of this code, in which the victim  
38 was a current or former spouse, current or former sexual or intimate partner, person with whom  
39 the defendant cohabits or has cohabited, a parent or guardian, the defendant's child or ward or a  
40 member of the defendant's household at the time of the offense, or a misdemeanor offense with  
41 similar essential elements in a jurisdiction other than this state;

42 (8) That the applicant is not under indictment for a felony offense or is not currently serving  
43 a sentence of confinement, parole, probation, or other court-ordered supervision imposed by a  
44 court of any jurisdiction, is the subject of an emergency or temporary domestic violence protective  
45 order, or is the subject of a final domestic violence protective order entered by a court of any  
46 jurisdiction;

47 (9) That the applicant has not been adjudicated to be mentally incompetent or involuntarily  
48 committed to a mental institution. If the applicant has been adjudicated mentally incompetent or  
49 involuntarily committed, the applicant shall provide a court order reflecting that the applicant is no  
50 longer under such disability and the applicant's right to possess or receive a firearm has been  
51 restored;

52 (10) That the applicant is not prohibited under the provisions of §61-7-7 of this code or  
53 federal law, including 18 U.S.C. §922(g) or (n), from receiving, possessing, or transporting a  
54 firearm;

55 (11) That the applicant has qualified under the minimum requirements set forth in  
56 subsection (e) of this section for handling and firing the weapon: *Provided*, That this requirement  
57 shall be waived in the case of a renewal applicant who has previously qualified; and

58 (12) That the applicant authorizes the sheriff of the county, or his or her designee, to  
59 conduct an investigation relative to the information contained in the application.

60 (c) For both initial and renewal applications, the sheriff shall conduct an investigation  
61 including a nationwide criminal background check consisting of inquiries of the National Instant  
62 Criminal Background Check System, the West Virginia criminal history record responses, and the  
63 National Interstate Identification Index, and shall review the information received in order to verify  
64 that the information required in subsection (b) of this section is true and correct. A license may  
65 not be issued unless the issuing sheriff has verified through the National Instant Criminal  
66 Background Check System that the information available to him or her does not indicate that

67 receipt or possession of a firearm by the applicant would be in violation of the provisions of §61-  
68 7-7 of this code or federal law, including 18 U.S.C. §922(g) or (n).

69 (d) (1) Twenty-five dollars of the resident license application fee and any fees for  
70 replacement of lost or stolen licenses received by the sheriff shall be deposited by the sheriff into  
71 a concealed weapons license administration fund. The fund shall be administered by the sheriff  
72 and shall take the form of an interest-bearing account with any interest earned to be compounded  
73 to the fund. Any funds deposited in this concealed weapon license administration fund are to be  
74 expended by the sheriff to pay the costs associated with issuing concealed weapons licenses.  
75 Any surplus in the fund on hand at the end of each fiscal year may be expended for other law-  
76 enforcement purposes or operating needs of the sheriff's office, as the sheriff considers  
77 appropriate.

78 (2) Fifteen dollars of the nonresident license application fee shall be deposited in the  
79 Courthouse Facilities Improvement Fund created by §29-26-6 of this code; \$25 of the application  
80 fee shall be deposited into the State Treasury and credited to the account of the State Police for  
81 the purchase of vehicles, equipment for vehicles, and maintenance of vehicles; and \$60 of the  
82 application fee shall be deposited in the concealed weapons license administration fund to be  
83 administered as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

84 (e) All persons applying for a license shall complete a training course in handling and firing  
85 a handgun, which includes the actual live firing of ammunition by the applicant. The successful  
86 completion of any of the following courses fulfills this training requirement: *Provided*, That the  
87 completed course includes the actual live firing of ammunition by the applicant:

88 (1) Any official National Rifle Association handgun safety or training course;

89 (2) Any handgun safety or training course or class available to the general public offered  
90 by an official law-enforcement organization, community college, junior college, college, or private  
91 or public institution or organization, or handgun training school using instructors certified by the  
92 institution;

93           (3) Any handgun training or safety course or class conducted by a handgun instructor  
94 certified as such by the state or by the National Rifle Association;

95           (4) Any handgun training or safety course or class conducted by any branch of the United  
96 States military, reserve, or National Guard, or proof of other handgun qualification received while  
97 serving in any branch of the United States military, reserve, or National Guard.

98           A photocopy of a certificate of completion of any of the courses or classes or an affidavit  
99 from the instructor, school, club, organization, or group that conducted or taught the course or  
100 class attesting to the successful completion of the course or class by the applicant or a copy of  
101 any document which shows successful completion of the course or class is evidence of  
102 qualification under this section and shall include the instructor's name, signature, and NRA or  
103 state instructor identification number, if applicable.

104           (f) All concealed weapons license applications must be notarized by a notary public duly  
105 licensed under §39-4-1 *et seq.* of this code. Falsification of any portion of the application  
106 constitutes false swearing and is punishable under §61-5-2 of this code.

107           (g) The sheriff shall issue a license unless he or she determines that the application is  
108 incomplete, that it contains statements that are materially false or incorrect, or that applicant  
109 otherwise does not meet the requirements set forth in this section. The sheriff shall issue, reissue,  
110 or deny the license within 45 days after the application is filed if all required background checks  
111 authorized by this section are completed.

112           (h) Before any approved license is issued or is effective, the applicant shall pay to the  
113 sheriff a fee in the amount of \$25 which the sheriff shall forward to the Superintendent of the West  
114 Virginia State Police within 30 days of receipt. A license in effect as of the effective date of the  
115 amendments to this section enacted during the 2019 regular session of the Legislature shall,  
116 subject to revocation for cause, is valid until the licensee's birthday during the fifth year from the  
117 date of issuance or five years from the date of issuance, whichever is later in time. Renewals of  
118 such licenses and licenses newly issued after the effective date of the amendments to this section

119 enacted during the 2019 regular session of the Legislature, subject to revocation for cause, are  
120 valid for a period of five years from the licensees' most recent birthday.

121 (i) Each license shall contain the full name and address of the licensee and a space upon  
122 which the signature of the licensee shall be signed with pen and ink. The issuing sheriff shall sign  
123 and attach his or her seal to all license cards. The sheriff shall provide to each new licensee a  
124 duplicate license card, in size similar to other state identification cards and licenses, suitable for  
125 carrying in a wallet, and the license card is considered a license for the purposes of this section.  
126 All duplicate license cards issued on or after July 1, 2017, shall be uniform across all 55 counties  
127 in size, appearance, and information and shall feature a photograph of the licensee.

128 (j) The Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police, in cooperation with the West  
129 Virginia Sheriffs' Bureau of Professional Standards, shall prepare uniform applications for both  
130 resident and nonresident licenses and license cards showing that the license has been granted  
131 and shall do any other act required to be done to protect the state and see to the enforcement of  
132 this section.

133 (k) If an application is denied, the specific reasons for the denial shall be stated by the  
134 sheriff denying the application. Any person denied a license may file, in the circuit court of the  
135 county in which the application was made, a petition seeking review of the denial. The petition  
136 shall be filed within 30 days of the denial. The court shall then determine whether the applicant is  
137 entitled to the issuance of a license under the criteria set forth in this section. The applicant may  
138 be represented by counsel, but in no case is the court required to appoint counsel for an applicant.  
139 The final order of the court shall include the court's findings of fact and conclusions of law. If the  
140 final order upholds the denial, the applicant may file an appeal in accordance with the Rules of  
141 Appellate Procedure of the Supreme Court of Appeals. If the findings of fact and conclusions of  
142 law of the court fail to uphold the denial, the applicant may be entitled to reasonable costs and  
143 attorney's fees, payable by the sheriff's office which issued the denial.



144 (l) If a license is lost or destroyed, the person to whom the license was issued may obtain  
145 a duplicate or substitute license for a fee of \$5 by filing a notarized statement with the sheriff  
146 indicating that the license has been lost or destroyed.

147 (m) Whenever an applicant or licensee relocates from the address provided in his or her  
148 application to another address, he or she shall comply with the following notification requirements:

149 (1) Within 20 days of a resident licensee relocating from the address provided in his or her  
150 application to another county in the state, he or she shall provide written notification of the  
151 relocation to the sheriff of the county to which he or she moved and provide his or her new  
152 address. The sheriff shall then issue a new resident license bearing the licensee's new address  
153 and the original expiration date, for a fee not to exceed \$5. The license remains valid for the  
154 remainder of the original five year term, unless the sheriff has determined that the person is no  
155 longer eligible for a concealed weapon license under the provisions of this article.

156 (2) Within 20 days of a resident licensee relocating from the address provided in his or her  
157 application to an address outside the state, he or she shall provide written notification to the sheriff  
158 of the issuing county of the relocation and provide his or her new address. The sheriff shall then  
159 issue a new nonresident license bearing the licensee's new address and the original expiration  
160 date, for a fee not to exceed \$5. The license remains valid for the remainder of the original five-  
161 year term unless the sheriff has determined that the person is no longer eligible for a concealed  
162 weapon license under the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That any renewal of the license in  
163 the new jurisdiction after expiration requires the payment of a nonresident license fee.

164 (3) Within 20 days of a nonresident licensee relocating from the address provided in his  
165 or her application to another address outside of the state, he or she shall provide written  
166 notification of the relocation to the sheriff of the issuing county and provide his or her new address.  
167 The sheriff shall then issue a new nonresident license bearing the licensee's new address and  
168 original expiration date, for a fee not to exceed \$5. This license remains valid for the remainder

169 of the original five-year term, unless the sheriff has determined that the person is no longer eligible  
170 for a concealed weapon license under the provisions of this article.

171 (4) Within 20 days of a nonresident licensee relocating to West Virginia from the address  
172 provided in his or her application, he or she shall provide written notification of the relocation to  
173 the sheriff of the county to which he or she has moved and provide his or her new address. The  
174 sheriff shall then issue a new resident license bearing the licensee's new address and the original  
175 expiration date, for a fee not to exceed \$5. This license remains valid for the remainder of the  
176 original five-year term, unless the sheriff has determined that the person is no longer eligible for  
177 a concealed weapon license under the provisions of this article.

178 (n) The sheriff shall, immediately after the license is granted under this section furnish the  
179 Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police a certified copy of the approved application. The  
180 sheriff shall furnish to the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police at any time so  
181 requested a certified list of all licenses issued in the county. The Superintendent of the West  
182 Virginia State Police shall maintain a registry of all persons who have been issued concealed  
183 weapons licenses.

184 (o) The sheriff shall deny any application or revoke any existing license upon  
185 determination that any of the licensing application requirements established in this section have  
186 been violated by the licensee.

187 (p) A person who is engaged in the receipt, review, or in the issuance or revocation of a  
188 concealed weapon license does not incur any civil liability as the result of the lawful performance  
189 of his or her duties under this article.

190 (q) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, with respect to application for a resident  
191 license by an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States, or a former  
192 law-enforcement officer honorably retired from agencies governed by §7-14-1 *et seq.* of this code,  
193 §8-14-1 *et seq.* of this code, §15-2-1 *et seq.* of this code, and §20-7-1 *et seq.* of this code, an  
194 honorably retired officer or an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United

195 States is exempt from payment of fees and costs as otherwise required by this section. All other  
196 application and background check requirements set forth in this section are applicable to these  
197 applicants.

198 (r) Information collected under this section, including applications, supporting documents,  
199 permits, renewals, or any other information that would identify an applicant for, or holder of, a  
200 concealed weapon license, is confidential: *Provided*, That this information may be disclosed to a  
201 law-enforcement agency or officer: (i) To determine the validity of a license; (ii) to assist in a  
202 criminal investigation or prosecution; or (iii) for other lawful law-enforcement purposes. A person  
203 who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not  
204 less than \$50 or more than \$200 for each offense.

205 (s) A person who pays fees for training or application pursuant to this article after the  
206 effective date of this section is entitled to a tax credit equal to the amount actually paid for training  
207 not to exceed \$50: *Provided*, That if such training was provided for free or for less than \$50, then  
208 such tax credit may be applied to the fees associated with the initial application.

209 (t) Except as restricted or prohibited by the provisions of this article or as otherwise  
210 prohibited by law, the issuance of a concealed weapon license issued in accordance with the  
211 provisions of this section authorizes the holder of the license to carry a concealed pistol or revolver  
212 on the lands or waters of this state.



The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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*Chairman, House Committee*

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*Chairman, Senate Committee*

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

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*Clerk of the House of Delegates*

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*Clerk of the Senate*

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*Speaker of the House of Delegates*

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*President of the Senate*

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The within ..... this the.....  
day of ....., 2021.

.....  
*Governor*