

Implementing Federal Law “Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act

This new federal law exempts qualified active and retired law enforcement officers from local and State prohibitions on the carrying of concealed firearms while off-duty across state lines.

Who is Eligible to Carry Concealed Firearms Under this Law?

A qualified active or retired law enforcement officer who is carrying the proper identification may carry a concealed firearm across state lines.

However, private citizens are allowed to prohibit the possession of a concealed firearm on their property. A State can restrict the possession of a concealed weapon on its property (i.e. park, school, building, etc.).

What does “qualified law enforcement officer” mean?

A “qualified law enforcement officer” means an employee of a governmental agency who:

1. is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and has statutory powers of arrest;
2. is authorized by the agency to carry a firearm;
3. is not the subject of any disciplinary action by the agency;
4. meets standards established by the agency which require the employee to regularly qualify in the use of a firearm;
5. is not under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance;
6. is not prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm.

A qualified retired law enforcement officer is an individual who:

1. retired in good standing from service with a public agency as a law enforcement officer for reasons other than mental insanity;
2. before retirement was authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and had statutory powers of arrest;
3. before retirement was regularly employed as a law enforcement officer for a total of 15 years or more or completed any applicable probationary period of such service, and then retired early due to a service connected disability;
4. has a non-forfeitable right to benefits under the retirement plan of the agency;

5. during the past 12 months has met, at his/her own expense, the State of residency's standards for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers to carry firearms;
6. is not under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance;
7. is not prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm.

How do I qualify under the provisions of this bill?

A qualified retired law enforcement officer must carry on your person a photo id issued by the agency from which you retired from service as a law enforcement officer that indicates that you have been tested or otherwise found by the agency to meet the standards established by the agency for training and qualification for active law enforcement to carry a firearm of the same type as the concealed firearm.

Or

A qualified retired law enforcement officer must carry a photo id issued by the agency from which you retired from service as a law enforcement officer and a certification issued by the State in which you reside that indicates that you have been tested or otherwise found by the state to meet the standards established by the State for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers to carry a firearm of the same type as the concealed firearm within the past 12 months.

Virginia Specific Requirements

As a retired law enforcement officer from a Virginia law enforcement agency, see the above qualification for retired officers.

For officers who retired from a law enforcement agency in a State other than Virginia, you must submit the following information to the Department of Criminal Justice Services, Standards & Training Section, 202 N. Ninth Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23219, which indicates the following:

1. Your name, address and telephone number;
2. The name of the law enforcement agency from which you retired;
3. The State in which you were employed as a law enforcement officer;
4. Dates which you were employed as a law enforcement officer;
5. Proof that you have met the in-service firearms training standards for the Commonwealth of Virginia conducted by a certified Virginia Criminal Justice Academy or an approved private security services training school which may be at your own expense;
6. A statement indicating that you retired as a law enforcement officer in good standing;
7. The make and model of the firearm with which you qualified; and

8. A statement that you understand that falsification of any information included on your letter of request is a crime and punishable as a criminal offense in Virginia.

Virginia Authorized Firearms Qualifications Courses

Every criminal justice officer required to carry a firearm in the performance of duty shall qualify annually using the applicable firearms course set forth below. Annual range qualification shall include a review of issues/policy relating to weapons safety, nomenclature, maintenance and use of force

1. Virginia Modified Double Action Course For Revolvers.

Target - Silhouette (B21, B21X, B27, Q)

60 rounds

Double action only

Minimum qualifying score - 70%

- a. Phase 1 - 7 yards, hip shooting, crouch position, 24 rounds
Load 6 rounds, fire 1 round on whistle (2 seconds), repeat or fire 2 rounds on whistle (3 seconds), repeat
Load 6 rounds, fire 2 rounds on whistle (3 seconds), repeat
Load 6 rounds, fire 12 rounds on whistle (30 seconds)
- b. Phase 2 - 15 yards, point shoulder position, 18 rounds
Load 6 rounds, fire 1 round on whistle (2 seconds), repeat or fire 2 rounds on whistle (3 seconds), repeat
Load 6 rounds, fire 2 rounds on whistle (3 seconds), repeat
Load 6 rounds, fire 6 rounds on whistle (12 seconds)
- c. Phase 3 - 25 yards, 90 seconds, 18 rounds
Load 6 rounds, on whistle:
fire 6 rounds, kneeling, strong hand; reload
fire 6 rounds, standing behind barricade, weak hand;
reload fire 6 rounds, standing behind barricade, strong hand (kneeling position may be fired using barricade)
- d. Scoring.
 - (1) B21, B21X targets: use indicated K value with a maximum 300 points; divide by 3 to obtain percentage.
 - (2) B27 target: 8, 9, 10, X rings - value 5 points; 7 ring - value 4 points; other hits on silhouette - value 3 points; divide by 3 to obtain percentage.
 - (3) Q targets: any fired round striking the bottle area to its marked border - value 5 points, any fired round striking outside the bottle area - value 3 points.

2. Virginia Modified Double Action Course For Semi-Automatic Pistols.

Target - Silhouette (B-21, B-21X, B-27, Q)

Minimum Qualifying Score - 70%

a. Each officer is restricted to the number of magazines carried on duty. Magazines shall be loaded to their full capacity. The range instructor shall determine when magazines will be changed.

b. Phase 1 - 7 yards, hip shooting, crouch position, load magazine, fire 1 round double action on command (2 sec.), or fire 2 rounds (3 seconds), make weapon safe, holster, repeat until 6 rounds have been fired.

(1) On command, draw and fire 2 rounds (3 sec.), make weapon safe, holster, repeat until 6 rounds have been fired.

(2) On command, draw and fire 12 rounds in 20 seconds, make weapon safe, and holster.

c. Phase 2 - 15 yards point shoulder position. On command, draw and fire 1 round (2 sec.), or draw and fire 2 rounds (3 sec.), make weapon safe, holster, repeat until 6 rounds have been fired.

(1) On command, draw and fire 1 round (2 sec.), or 2 rounds (3 sec.), make weapon safe, holster, repeat until 6 rounds have been fired.

(2) On command, draw and fire 6 rounds (12 sec.), make weapon safe, holster.

d. Phase 3 - 25 yards, kneeling and standing position. On command, assume kneeling position, draw weapon and fire 6 rounds, then fire 6 rounds weak hand, standing, barricade position, then fire 6 rounds strong hand, standing, barricade position, until a total of 18 rounds have been fired. (70 seconds)

(1) (Kneeling position may be fired using barricade.)

(2) (Weapons which do not have a double action capability will require the first round be chambered manually.)

e. Scoring.

(1) B21, B21X targets: use indicated K value with a maximum 300 points; divide by 3 to obtain percentage.

(2) B27 target: 8, 9, 10, X rings - value 5 points; 7 ring - value 4 points; other hits on silhouette - value 3 points; divide by 3 to obtain percentage.

(3) Q targets: any fired round striking the bottle area to its marked border - value 5 points, any fired round striking outside the bottle area - value 3 points.

3. Virginia 50 round Tactical Qualification Course for Revolvers and Semi-automatic Pistols.

Target - silhouette (B21, B21X, B-27, Q) Minimum Qualifying Score 70%

a. Each officer is restricted to the number of magazines carried on duty. Magazines shall be loaded to full capacity. The range instructor shall determine when magazines will be changed.

b. Phase 1 - On 5 or 7 yard line or fraction thereof, point shoulder shooting, fire 2 rounds on command in 3 seconds for 12 rounds. Between each 2 rounds holster, repeat until all rounds have been fired.

(1) On command, draw and fire 6 rounds in 8 seconds from point shoulder positions.

(2) On command draw and fire 4 rounds strong hand only, point shoulder point in 8 seconds.

(3) On command, fire 4 rounds, weak hand only, point shoulder position in 10 seconds.

c. Phase 2 - 15 yard point shoulder position

(1) On command, draw and fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds for 6 (optional to re-holster after each 2 rounds)

(2) On command, draw and fire 6 rounds in 12 seconds, holster.

d. Phase 3 - 25 yard, kneeling and standing position on command, assume a kneeling position, draw weapon and fire 6 rounds behind a barricade, than fire 6 rounds strong hand, standing barricade position, until a total of 12 rounds have been fired for a total of 45 seconds for semi-automatic pistols or 60 seconds for revolvers. A kneeling position may be fired using a barricade.)

e. Scoring:

(1) B21, B21x targets: use indicated K value with a minimum of 250 points: Multiply by .4 to obtain percentage.

(2) B27 target: 8, 9 and 10 X rings-value 5 points, 7 ring - value 4 points, other hits on silhouette - value 3 points; multiply by .4 to obtain percent.

(3) Q target: any fired round striking the bottle area to its marked border - value 5 points, any fired round striking outside the bottle area - value 3 points.

**** Upon receipt of the information required, the Department of Criminal Justice Services will verify retirement with the former employing agency and issue a letter indicating that the required firearms training requirements have been met.**