

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 254

Short Title: Const. Amend./Concealed Carry. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Pittman and Kidwell (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 10, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO EQUALIZE OPEN CARRY AND CONCEALED CARRY OF DEFENSIVE
3 WEAPONS BY REMOVING THE PROHIBITION OF CONCEALED CARRY AND TO
4 UPHOLD THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS FOR SELF-DEFENSE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 30 of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution reads as
7 rewritten:

8 "**Sec. 30. Militia and the right to bear arms.**

9 A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people
10 to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; and, as standing armies in time of peace are
11 dangerous to liberty, they shall not be maintained, and the military shall be kept under strict
12 subordination to, and governed by, the civil power. ~~Nothing herein shall justify the practice of~~
13 ~~carrying concealed weapons, or prevent the General Assembly from enacting penal statutes~~
14 ~~against that practice.~~ Any citizen of the United States who (i) has not been indicted or convicted
15 of a violent crime or possession or distribution of a controlled substance and (ii) has not been
16 adjudicated mentally incompetent has the right to carry any legal weapon for self-defense, either
17 openly or concealed, with or without a permit, except on public or private property that is legally
18 posted against it. A system of concealed carry permits shall be maintained for purposes of
19 reciprocity with other States and ease of purchasing weapons, but no law-abiding citizen shall be
20 required to obtain such a permit to carry a concealed weapon."

21 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to
22 the qualified voters of the State at the general election in 2022, which election shall be conducted
23 under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used
24 in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting
25 systems and ballots shall be:

26 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

27 Constitutional amendment to make it a right for any citizen who has not been indicted
28 or convicted of a violent crime to carry any legal weapon for self-defense, either openly or
29 concealed, with or without a permit, except on public or private property that is legally posted
30 against it."

31 **SECTION 3.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment
32 set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the amendment to the
33 Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so certified among the
34 permanent records of that office. The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act becomes
35 effective upon certification and applies to takings after that date.



1 **SECTION 4.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
2 law.