

HOUSE BILL 2659

By Holsclaw

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3;
Title 4; Title 38 and Title 39, relative to valid
enhanced handgun carry permits.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, is amended by adding the following
as a new chapter:

(a) As used in this chapter:

(1) "Division" means the division of protective services within the
department of safety;

(2) "Handgun" has the same meaning as defined in § 39-17-1319;

(3) "Legislative complex" means the state legislative complex, including
the Cordell Hull state office building and the second floor of the state capitol
building; and

(4) "Sergeant-at-arms" means a person appointed by the speaker of the
senate or the speaker of the house of representatives who is employed by the
general assembly to maintain order during legislative proceedings within the
legislative complex.

(b) Sergeants-at-arms may carry a handgun in the course and scope of their
duties within the legislative complex; provided, that such persons possess a valid
enhanced handgun carry permit issued under § 39-17-1351 and have completed the
requirements in subsection (e).

(c) Sergeants-at-arms shall not employ a handgun except when the action is justifiable self-defense, in accordance with § 39-11-611, or justifiable defense of others, in accordance with § 39-11-612.

(d) This chapter does not affect the division in the exercise of its powers and duties under § 4-3-2006.

(e) The department of safety, in consultation with the division, shall implement an annual sergeant-at-arms four-hour training program to train sergeants-at-arms in all necessary procedures designed to ensure the safety and security of persons within the legislative complex. In order for a sergeant-at-arms to be authorized to carry a handgun in the course and scope of their duties within the legislative complex, the sergeant-at-arms must complete a four-hour hands-on firearms training course located at an approved National Rifle Association range. A state-approved handgun instructor must instruct the training and certify that the sergeant-at-arms has met the requirements in this section. In order to carry a handgun pursuant to this chapter, a sergeant-at-arms must successfully complete the training annually. The department shall provide timely notice of a successful completion of training by a sergeant-at-arms to the chief clerks of the senate and the house of representatives. The department may promulgate rules in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

(f) Notwithstanding this section to the contrary, the requirements described in subsection (e) shall not apply to a sergeant-at-arms hired prior to October 1, 2024.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect October 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.