



## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

**Safeguard individual liberty:** The committee substitute provides an extension of 180 days for renewal of a license to carry a concealed weapon for a licensee who is a servicemember serving on military orders that take him or her over 35 miles away from his or her residence.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### **Current Situation**

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department) authorizes the issuance and renewal of licenses to carry concealed weapons or firearms to persons qualified under the provisions of s. 790.06, F.S. The license is valid for a period of five years from the date of issuance, and must be carried, along with valid identification, when the license holder is carrying his/her firearm in a concealed manner. The license and identification must be displayed to law enforcement officers upon demand. Violations of these provisions are a noncriminal violation with a fine of \$25.<sup>3</sup>

The department is required to notify a licensee no later than 90 days prior to the expiration date of his/her license. The notification is by mail and includes a renewal form. License holders are required to notify the department of permanent address changes or after having a license lost or destroyed. Notification must take place within 30 days of either event. Failure to notify the department results in a noncriminal violation that carries a \$25 fine for either offense.

A licensee who fails to renew his/her license on or before the expiration date must pay a \$15 late fee in order to renew the license. A license is deemed permanently expired, and will not be renewed, if 6 months or more have lapsed since its expiration. A person seeking renewal after permanent expiration must submit an application, an \$85 fee, and the documentation required under s. 790.06(5), F.S.

The department currently makes every effort to accommodate active military personnel in the renewal of licenses without charging the late fee if license holders can show their military service impeded the renewal process.

##### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

Committee Substitute for House Bill 1153 provides that the concealed weapon or firearm license of a servicemember<sup>4</sup> who is serving on military orders that take him or her over 35 miles away from his or her residence shall not expire until 180 days after his or her return to his or her residence. This appears to allow anyone called to federal or active duty the opportunity to be free from paying late fees due to his or her license expiration date passing while he or she is deployed on military orders. However, such a licensee is still subject to the 180-day window between the adjusted expiration date (return from orders plus 180 days) and the permanent expiration as described in Current Situation above. This committee substitute appears to help the servicemember, though, by pushing these timelines to well after the servicemember has returned to his or her residence after fulfilling their military orders.

The committee substitute also provides that in order to take advantage of this extension, the servicemember must provide written verification, in the form of their military orders or a letter from their commander, to the department.

---

<sup>3</sup> s. 790.06(1), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> As defined in s. 250.01, F.S.: "Servicemember" means any person serving as a member of the United States Armed Forces on active duty or state active duty and all members of the Florida National Guard and United States Reserve Forces.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1:** Amends s. 790.06, F.S.; provides for an extension of 180 days for renewal of license to carry a concealed weapon for licensee who is a servicemember serving on military orders that take him or her over 35 miles away from his or her residence. Provides that such licensee must provide written verification to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to use extension.

**Section 2:** Provides an effective date of July 1, 2006.

**II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The committee substitute would eliminate additional costs incurred by the public in renewing concealed weapons permits after the expiration date of the license.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Although the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service may not collect late fees from individuals who would benefit from the provisions of the committee substitute, it would not fiscally impact the department due to the current practice of waiving late fees for military personnel whose military duty impedes the renewal process.

**III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The committee substitute does not require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, does not reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues in the aggregate, and does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

**IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES**

On April 5, 2006, the Committee on Military & Veteran Affairs approved one strike-all amendment. The amendment changes those eligible for the extension in the bill from those who participated in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom to any servicemember, as defined in 250.01, who is serving on military orders over 35 miles away from his or her residence. The amendment makes some technical changes, too, such as reorganizing the construction of the language of the bill. The committee then reported the committee substitute favorably by a vote of 7 to 0.