



Buckeye Firearms Association

www.BuckeyeFirearms.org

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Jim Irvine, Chairman

Good afternoon Chairman Wagoner, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am speaking on behalf of Buckeye Firearms Association, thousands of law enforcement officers, over 300,000 Ohio concealed handgun license (CHL) holders, and millions of gun owners from Ohio and other states who carry concealed or enjoy hunting, sporting, competition and other Second Amendment related activities in our great state. I speak in support of House Bill 495.

House Bill 495 would make three material changes to Ohio law. Reciprocity will become easier with the many states that automatically honor Ohio CHL's but still allow our Attorney General to sign agreements with states that require them, delete the "demonstrated competency" requirement for renewal of CHLs, and correct the definition of a loaded firearm.

Ohio currently has a restrictive reciprocity scheme whereby our Attorney General must enter into agreements for Ohioans to carry in other states. Because of our restrictive law, we have no agreements with Indiana, Pennsylvania, Georgia and other states where Ohioans travel. HB495 will facilitate more states honoring Ohio's license and more visitors being permitted to carry in Ohio.

The demonstrated competency requirement for renewals is undefined administrative red tape. It requires time and paperwork, but no training. It serves no useful purpose and is eliminated in this bill. Qualifications, training and background checks required to obtain a concealed handgun licenses remain unchanged.

The current definition of an unloaded firearm is a trap for the unwary with felony penalties. No other state has a similar definition to current Ohio law. House Bill 495 will align Ohio law with common practice.

In conclusion, House Bill 495 is a common sense reform to flaws in current firearms regulations. It will protect law-abiding citizens from unwittingly becoming felons while continuing to harmonize Ohio law with other states and commonly accepted practice.

Respectfully submitted,

James Irvine, Chairman
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