

Concealed Handgun Licenses". The title does not indicate that military service persons are also subject to the background checks.

Section 1 of the bill allows that an application fee, a renewal fee and a firearm training course is not required of current and retired law enforcement officers. As amended, this section now pertains to not only current and retired law enforcement officers, but also to NMMP members, be they currently employed or retired. It also adds a new subsection B that requires law enforcement officers or a NMMP member to submit two full sets of fingerprints and color photograph to the DPS for a national criminal background check.

SFl# 1 adds a new Section 2 to the bill that is titled: Military Service Persons--Requirements

Subsection A. allows that license application and renewal fees are not required of any applicant who is a military service person or retiree as defined in subsection E.

It also states that: "For a military service person discharged from military service within twenty years of the application for a license or renewal of a license, a firearms training course or refresher firearms training course is not required."

Subsection B. requires submission of two full sets of fingerprints and a color photograph of the military service person to DPS and national criminal background check.

Subsection C. states that a military service person's concealed handgun carry license shall have printed on the license "military service person" and shall be valid for a period of five years.

Subsection D. provides for suspension or revocation of a concealed carry license. The conditions detailed are consistent with other provisions of the Concealed Handgun Carry Act.

Subsection E. defines a "military service person" one who was accepted into the United States armed forces and is on active duty with the United States armed forces; is on reserve or guard duty with the United States armed forces; or is a veteran or a retiree who received an honorable discharge as indicated on a United States department of defense form 214.

It may be worth noting that many who serve in the military are not provided with firearms training on a regular basis. For some, their only training if not in combat arms may only have taken place during basic training. Therefore, a hypothetical military retiree who served for 20 years before retiring, and who retired 20 years ago, may not have received any firearms training for 40 years. Yet under this amendment, this military veteran would be eligible to receive a concealed carry handgun license without any additional firearms training.

Further, this exemption is more liberal than current statute with regard to retired law enforcement officers, who are only exempted from taking a firearms training course for the license if they retired less than ten years ago.

No agency analysis on this amendment is available so the fiscal impact is unknown. However, the US Department of Veterans Affairs states that there are 177,000 living veterans in NM. It is not known how many of these veterans either hold concealed carry licenses or would choose to have one if no fees or firearms training courses are required of them. The current cost of a

firearms license is \$100 including the cost of the background check. Further, concealed carry licenses currently must be renewed after four years, not five years, as this bill would now provide.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 431 grants an exemption to a current member of the NMMP from application or renewal fees, and training courses, necessary to carry a concealed firearm. The exemption applies to mounted patrol members who have successfully completed a Law Enforcement Academy basic law enforcement training program for mounted patrol members.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 431 includes no appropriation.

Currently, there are about 100 New Mexico Mounted Patrol officers therefore waiving the fees has an insignificant budgetary impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None. DPS supports this bill.

CAC/je/bb/je