

The Florida House of Representatives

Paul Renner

Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact:

media@myfloridahouse.gov

(850) 717-5780

Florida House Expands Second Amendment Rights, Removes Red Tape

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 24, 2023) — Today, the Committee Substitute for House Bill 543 passed off the House Floor, showing the Florida House’s commitment to ensuring law-abiding citizens can exercise their constitutional rights to conceal carry a firearm without government permission.

CS/HB 543 removes the requirement for Floridians to obtain a state license in order to carry a concealed weapon or firearm, consistent with the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The bill leaves in place the current licensing process and background screening, so that those who choose to obtain a permit for reciprocity or other purposes are free to do so. It also creates the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program, while strengthening other important school safety provisions. The bill does not affect the prohibition on carrying firearms in certain restricted areas.

“Floridians shouldn’t need a permission slip from the government to exercise the rights afforded them by the Second Amendment,” said Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast). “I commend Representatives Brannan and Payne for passing the largest expansion of Second Amendment rights in state history, respecting the constitutional right of Floridians to carry a concealed weapon for their protection and for the protection of those around them.”

“Florida continues to lead the way in the modern carry movement by allowing all law-abiding Floridians to carry concealed without government interference or local preemption. Each and every law-abiding adult in this country is constitutionally guaranteed the right to keep and bear arms,” said bill sponsor Representative Chuck Brannan (R-Macclenny). “In the State of Florida, government bureaucracy will no longer stand between law-abiding Floridians and their freedom to exercise their

Second Amendment rights. This bill recognizes that while the government has a duty to protect its citizens, its citizens have a right to protect themselves. I am also very excited about the school safety portions of the bill that continue Florida's work of improving school safety with new programs and over 50 million new dollars devoted to protect our most precious resource, our children! I'm proud to have carried this bill and am grateful for the support of Speaker Renner, my co-sponsor Representative Payne, and the Members who voted favorably to remove this unnecessary hurdle."

"The legislation passed today by the House allows Floridians to conceal carry their firearm without the red tape and expense of a government license," said bill sponsor Representative Bobby Payne (R-Palatka). "I'm honored to have worked with Speaker Renner and Representative Brannan to protect law-abiding Floridians' constitutional liberties from being obstructed by government interference."

For more information on CS/HB 543, visit myfloridahouse.gov.

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