

## Summary of NC House Bill 746 - Proposed Committee Substitute

### Permitless Carry

This bill would generally allow any adult citizen (18 and above) who is not legally prohibited from qualifying for a CCW permit under NC law to carry a handgun in public, either openly or concealed, without any permit, unless otherwise restricted by state or federal law. The bill would require people carrying concealed to carry valid ID and disclose that ID when requested by law enforcement. It would also generally allow permitless carry (open or concealed) at state parks, state-owned rest stops and rest areas, and state-owned hunting and fishing reservations.

### Guns at Parades and Funeral Processions

While the bill would maintain NC's general prohibition on carrying firearms at picket lines and most demonstrations, it would generally repeal restrictions on carrying guns at parades and funeral processions.

### Expanding CCW Permit Eligibility to Physically and Mentally “Infirm” Applicants

The bill would still require NC sheriffs to issue CCW permits to eligible applicants, as specified. (These CCW permits would allow people to carry in additional areas, pursuant to existing law, and would allow them to carry in other states pursuant to existing reciprocity agreements). However, it would weaken the eligibility requirements for CCW permits by (1) repealing a provision that made applicants ineligible if they have a “physical infirmity” that prevents the safe handling of a handgun, and (2) making individuals with a serious “mental infirmity” eligible unless they have a “currently diagnosed and ongoing mental disorder” that reasonably prevents the safe handling of a handgun. Finally, (3) it would make people who have been adjudicated mentally incompetent eligible for a CCW permit if the adjudication was by any government agency besides a court or if the adjudication did not include a finding that the person was a danger to self or others.

### Expedited CCW Permit Issuance

This bill would require sheriffs to schedule any interview with a CCW applicant within 15 business days of the date of the application and to issue or deny a permit within 90 days, even if the sheriff has not yet received the applicant's mental health records.

### Guns in Schools

This bill would create relatively minor exemptions for guns in schools, such as allowing CCW permit holders to carry handguns in a K-12 school building that houses a place of worship if he or she does so outside of the school operating hours.

### **Firearm Safety Class in Schools**

This bill would require the State Board of Education to develop a firearm safety course that could be offered as an elective at the high school level. (The bill specifies that the course shall not be permitted to use or have live ammunition present). The bill would similarly require the State Board of Education to develop a high school level elective course on “the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation.”

### **Relinquishment**

This bill would standardize procedures for relinquishment of certain weapons by individuals convicted of specified weapon-related crimes.

### **New Crime**

This bill would create a new crime, making it an offense for a person to arm himself or herself with “an unusual and dangerous weapon for the purpose of terrifying others” on public highways.