

# What **Federally Mandated Concealed Carry Reciprocity** would mean for **Virginia**

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are debating a bill that would force each state to recognize the concealed carry laws of every other state.

Currently, states have the right to choose which states' concealed carry laws they recognize, which is important because the requirements to carry hidden, loaded guns in public vary drastically from state to state. If the concealed carry reciprocity bill passes, that will no longer be the case, and **Virginia will be forced to allow unlicensed, unvetted people from out of state to carry concealed guns in public places.**

As of today, 12 states—including Virginia's neighbor, West Virginia—do **not** require any permit or training to carry hidden, loaded guns in public. If this bill becomes federal law, almost any person from these states would be **automatically authorized** to carry concealed in Virginia, regardless of whether that person meets Virginia's standards for what it takes to carry a concealed gun in public.

**Current Virginia law does not allow people without a concealed carry license to carry in Virginia,** but if the concealed carry reciprocity bill passes, Virginia would be federally mandated to honor the weak or nonexistent concealed carry standards of other states, **making Virginia less safe and putting law enforcement at risk.**

	REQUIREMENTS TO CARRY CONCEALED IN...	
	VIRGINIA	WEST VIRGINIA
<b>Must obtain a permit?</b>	 A person 21 years of age or older must apply for a permit from the local circuit court or obtain a license from another state.	 A person 21 years of age or older does NOT need a permit and does not go through a vetting process to carry concealed in West Virginia.
<b>Must pass a background check?</b>	 Before issuing the permit, the court consults with local law enforcement which provides a fingerprints-based report from the Central Criminal Records Exchange.	 A person who carries a concealed, loaded gun in West Virginia may NOT have undergone a background check and undergoes NO vetting process.
<b>Must NOT be a threat to public safety?</b>	 Any person who has been convicted, or with a charge pending, of any assault, even at the misdemeanor level, within the last three years is ineligible for a permit.	 A person convicted of assault at the misdemeanor level multiple times may still legally carry concealed, unless the assaults were domestically related.
<b>Must complete safety training?</b>	 Virginia requires training provided through an approved hunting or firearms course, evidence of equivalent experience, or proof that the individual previously held a license to carry concealed that was not revoked for cause.	 A person 21 years of age or older is legally allowed to carry a loaded, concealed gun in public with NO training or experience with firearms.
<b>Will be held accountable?</b>	 State police maintain an automated database of concealed carry holder information for law enforcement, including if a license is suspended, revoked, lost, or destroyed.	 A law enforcement officer in West Virginia has NO way to verify that an armed individual he or she encounters is carrying legally.