



What **Federally Mandated Concealed Carry Reciprocity** would mean for **Montana**

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 permits 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 **Montana 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 Montana's neighbors, North Dakota, Idaho, and Wyoming—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 Montana, regardless of whether that person meets Montana's standards for what it takes to carry a concealed gun in public, such as having passed a background check.

Current Montana law does not allow people with concealed carry permits issued by some states with weaker standards to carry in Montana. If the concealed carry reciprocity bill passes, Montana would be federally mandated to honor the weak or nonexistent concealed carry standards of other states, **making Montana less safe and putting law enforcement at risk.**

REQUIREMENTS TO CARRY CONCEALED IN...

	MONTANA	IDAHO
Must obtain a permit?	✓ A permit is required to carry a concealed gun in Montana.	✗ A person 21 years of age or older does NOT need a permit to carry concealed in Idaho.
Must pass a background check?	✓ Before a permit is issued, a sheriff conducts a background check of an applicant to determine whether the applicant is eligible and may require an applicant to submit the applicant's fingerprints.	✗ A person who carries a concealed, loaded gun in Idaho may NOT have ever gone through a background check or other vetting process.
Must NOT be a threat to public safety?	✓ The sheriff may deny a permit if he or she has reasonable cause to believe that the applicant is a threat to the peace and good order of the community.	✗ Law enforcement has NO authority to prevent a violent person from carrying concealed, absent convictions for felonies, domestic violence, a restraining order, or a current term of probation.
Must complete safety training?	✓ An applicant must demonstrate familiarity with a firearm through a safety course, military experience, or a physical test.	✗ A person 21 years of age or older is legally allowed to carry a concealed, loaded gun with NO training or experience with firearms.
Will be held accountable?	✓ When a permit is issued, the sheriff must send a copy to the Montana Department of Justice, which keeps a central repository. This information may be disseminated to other criminal justice agencies.	✗ A law enforcement officer in Idaho has NO way to verify that an armed Idaho resident he or she encounters is carrying a concealed gun legally.