



What Federally Mandated Concealed Carry Reciprocity would mean for Pennsylvania

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 **Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania'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 Pennsylvania, regardless of whether that person meets Pennsylvania's standards for what it takes to carry a concealed gun in public.

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

REQUIREMENTS TO CARRY CONCEALED IN...

	PENNSYLVANIA	WEST VIRGINIA
Must obtain a permit?	<p>A permit is required to carry concealed, and people under age 21 are prohibited from carrying concealed. To get a license, a resident must apply to the local sheriff or chief of police, or obtain an eligible license from another state. Non-residents must also have a license from their home state.</p>	<p>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. Only people under age 21 have to get a license or permit to carry concealed.</p>
Must pass a background check?	<p>Before the permit is issued, a sheriff or chief of police conducts a check of criminal records, juvenile delinquency, and mental health records, and must investigate whether the applicant is likely to act in a dangerous manner.</p>	<p>A person who carries a concealed, loaded gun in West Virginia may NOT have undergone a background check and undergoes NO vetting process.</p>
Must NOT be a threat to public safety?	<p>The license is denied if the applicant's character or reputation indicates he or she would be likely to act in a dangerous manner. It may also be denied "for good cause."</p>	<p>A person convicted of assault at the misdemeanor level multiple times may still legally carry concealed, unless the assaults were domestically related.</p>
Will be held accountable?	<p>State police maintain an automated database of concealed carry holder information for law enforcement, including if a license is suspended, revoked, lost, or destroyed.</p>	<p>A law enforcement officer in West Virginia has NO way to verify that an armed individual he or she encounters is carrying a concealed gun legally.</p>