

THE CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2025

BACKGROUND

Under existing law, states have authority over issuing permits to qualified firearm owners allowing them to carry their legal firearms in a concealed manner. Each state and certain local governments set different rules regarding whether a concealed carry permit or license is required with corresponding qualifications, terms and conditions. There is no federal law governing the issuing of concealed carry permits.

CONFUSING PATCHWORK

The problem facing law-abiding gun owners is that different from other fundamental Constitutional rights, a license is required to enjoy aspects of the Second Amendment. Unlike a driver's license, the permit of one state is not necessarily valid in another. Some states have reciprocity agreements with other states that allow for permits of one to be acknowledged in the other. The combination of inconsistent state and local laws with these agreements has created a confusing patchwork of ever-changing rules for firearm owners when traveling across state lines. While one cannot carry concealed in certain states that don't recognize their permits, the Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986 (FOPA) permits you to travel through an antigun state provided the gun is locked up and stored properly. This should be clarified. Recommend replacing the highlighted text with:

An individual cannot enter a state while carrying concealed

- Currently, there is a confusing patchwork of laws surrounding concealed carry permits that vary from state-to-state.
- The Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2025 (H.R.38 / S.65) aims to eliminate this confusion and would allow handgun owners who are legally permitted and authorized in and by their home state to carry a concealed firearm in other states if they comply with the laws of each state.
- There is no justification for individuals' Constitutional rights to end at the state line. Rights to Free Speech or Due Process don't stop at the state border, neither should the Right to Keep and Bear Arms under the Second Amendment.

unless that state recognizes their permit. If a resident of one state wants to carry concealed, that individual must avoid certain states or take other precautions (e.g. stopping to store and lock firearm away from driver's access and separately from ammunition) until the concealed carry permit holder gets to a state where their permit is recognized. If a Pennsylvania resident legally carrying a firearm accidentally crosses into bordering New York, the individual is breaking the law and can be arrested and criminally prosecuted. As a result, firearm owners are frequently subjected to onerous civil suits or criminal prosecution for failing to correctly decode the tangle of regulations based on the state and locality they may travel to or find themselves in. In one such case, Philadelphia resident Shaneen Allen faced up to five years in prison for bringing a firearm into New Jersey¹. She held a valid license to carry in Pennsylvania, but not in neighboring New Jersey. The mother of two voluntarily told a law enforcement

officer of the firearm during a traffic stop, but was still arrested, charged, convicted and spent 48 days in jail – all for having made a wrong turn and accidentally crossing the state line. Fortunately, after an 18 month legal ordeal, then-New Jersey Governor Chris Christie pardoned Allen. Others, however, are not so lucky.

THE SOLUTION: NATIONAL RECIPROCITY

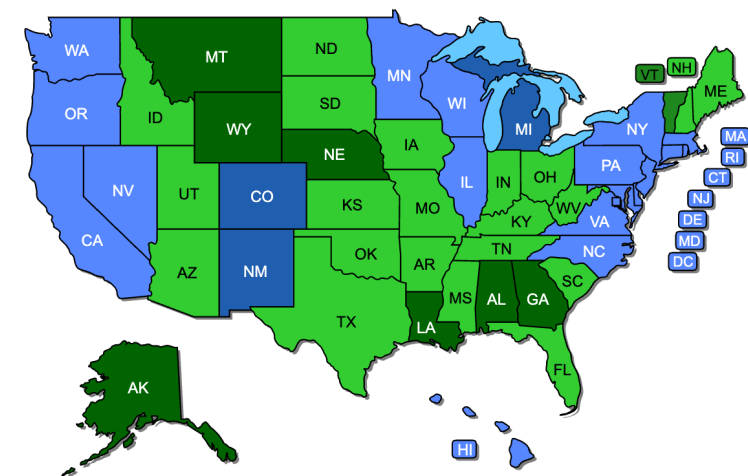
Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) and Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) have reintroduced legislation (H.R.38²/ S.65³) that would provide a commonsense solution to the confusing patchwork of laws by ensuring that concealed carry permits issued in one state are valid for carrying concealed handguns in all states. Residents of states that do not require a permit to carry concealed (i.e., constitutional carry states), would be allowed to carry in other states that allow their residents to concealed carry. Preventing citizens from unwittingly breaking the law by crossing a state

border, while preserving the rights of states, the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act would put the burden of proof on the state to show that an individual carrying concealed did not comply with the law and would provide legal protections against states that violate the intent of this bill. H.R. 38 would also allow individuals to carry concealed firearms in the National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, and on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation.

STATES PRESERVE AUTHORITY

Contrary to the arguments of antigun activists, the legislation does not preempt the authority of state governments to set the laws and regulations for carrying and for issuing permits within their state. Rather, it would allow individuals who hold a state-issued concealed carry license or permit to carry a concealed handgun in any other state that allows concealed carry, provided that they comply with the laws of that state.

Permits Honored by State



- Shall Issue to Residents Only:**
Colorado, Michigan, New Mexico, Guam
- Shall Issue to Residents and Non-Residents:**
California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia
- May Issue to Residents Only:**
Virgin Islands
- Constitutional Carry and Shall Issue to Residents Only:**
Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming
- Constitutional Carry and Shall Issue to Residents and Non-Residents:**
Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia
- Constitutional Carry and Does Not Issue Permits:**
Vermont
- Right Denied:**
American Samoa, N. Mariana Islands

Source - <https://www.usacarry.com/concealed-carry-permit-reciprocity-maps/>

1 Jacqueline L. Urgo, Inquirer Staff Writer. "Christie Pardons Woman Arrested under Gun Law." <https://www.inquirer.com>, April 2, 2015. https://www.inquirer.com/philly/news/new_jersey/20150403_Christie_pardons_Philadelphia_mom_snagged_by_N.J._gun_law.html#:~:text=16%20p.m.%20ET,Gov,the%20firearm%20in%20her%20purse
2 H.R.38 - 119th Congress (2025-2026): To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a means by which nonresidents of a State whose residents may carry concealed firearms may also do so in the State, H.R.38, 119th Cong. (2025), <https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th-congress/house-bill/38/related-bills>.
3 S.65 - 119th Congress (2025-2026): Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2025, S.65, 119th Cong. (2025), <https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th-congress/senate-bill/65>.