

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, sets 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 driver's licenses, 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. For example, a North Carolina resident cannot drive to Delaware without having to go out of their way to avoid driving through Maryland. If a Pennsylvania resident legally carrying a firearm accidentally crosses into bordering New York, they are breaking the law and can be arrested and criminally prosecuted.

As a result, firearm owners are frequently subjected to onerous

- The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2025 (H.R.38) would allow handgun owners who are legally permitted and authorized in and by their home state to carry a concealed firearm in other states they must comply with the laws of each state.
- Currently, state and local regulations and a patchwork of reciprocity agreements serve as deterrents and obstacles to firearm owners seeking to abide by the law.
- There is no justification for individuals' Constitutional rights to end at the border of their states. Your rights to Free Speech or Due Process don't stop at the state border, neither should your Right to Keep and Bear Arms under the Second Amendment.

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 Jersey.ⁱ 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. Fortunately, after an 18 month legal ordeal, Governor Chris Christie pardoned Allen. Others are not so lucky.

THE SOLUTION: NATIONAL RECIPROCITY

Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) has introduced legislation (**H.R.38ⁱⁱ**) which would address these problems 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 concealed

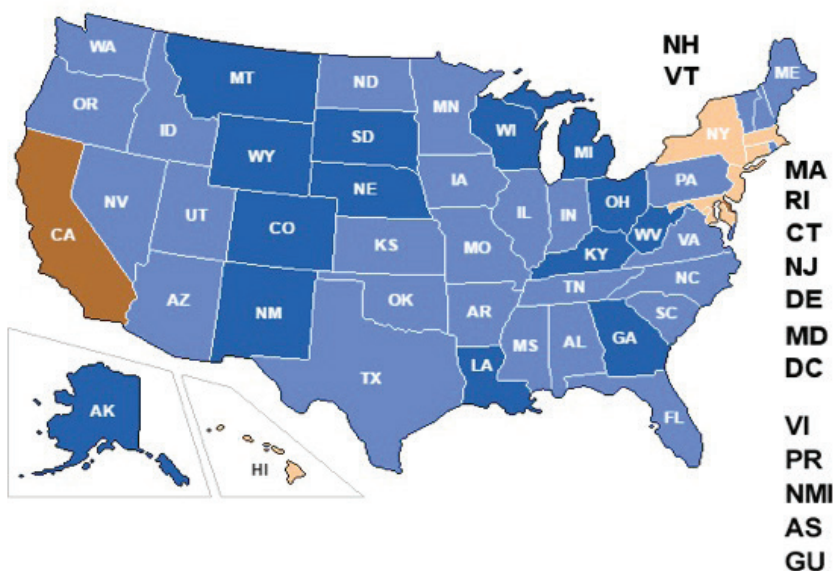
carry (called constitutional carry states), would be allowed to carry in other states that allow their residents to concealed carry. **H.R. 38** was introduced on January 3, 2025, with the support of 124 cosponsors. Preventing citizens from unwittingly breaking the law by crossing a state border, while preserving the rights of states, the 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 lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation.

STATES PRESERVE AUTHORITY

Contrary to the arguments of gun control advocates, 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, while following the laws of that state. Residents of Constitutional carry states would also be allowed to carry in other states that recognize their own residents' right to concealed carry.

Permits Honored by State



Shall Issue to Residents Only:

Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Guam, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Shall Issue to Residents and Non-Residents:

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington

May Issue to Residents Only:

California, Delaware, New York City, Virgin Islands

May Issue to Residents and Non-Residents:

Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York

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/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/38/related-bills>.