**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 3159**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Yow, Pedalino, Kilmartin and Wickensimer

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Introduced in the House on January 14, 2025

Currently residing in the House

Summary: Law enforcement officers

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/5/2024 House Prefiled

12/5/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/14/2025 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 111](h:\hj\20250114.docx))

1/14/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 111](h:\hj\20250114.docx))

2/11/2025 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Kilmartin

3/10/2025 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Wickensimer

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/05/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3159_20241205.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 23‑31‑600, RELATING TO RETIRED PERSONNEL, IDENTIFICATION CARDS, AND QUALIFICATION FOR CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS, SO AS TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT RESTRICTS THE CARRYING OF CONCEALED WEAPONS ONTO CERTAIN PREMISES, AND TO PROVIDE AT NO CHARGE, THE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION SHALL ISSUE CONCEALED WEAPON PERMITS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES TO CERTAIN HOLDERS OF QUALIFIED RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CREDENTIALS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 23‑31‑600 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 23‑31‑600. (A) For purposes of this section:

(1) “Identification card” is a photographic identification card complying with 18 U.S.C. Section 926C.

(2) “Qualified retired law enforcement officer” shall have the same meaning as in 18 U.S.C. Section 926C.

(B) An agency or department within this State may comply with 18 U.S.C. Section 926C, by issuing an identification card to any qualified retired law enforcement officer. If the agency or department currently issues credentials to active law enforcement officers, the agency or department may comply with the requirements of this section by issuing the same credentials to qualified retired law enforcement officers. If the same credentials are issued, then the agency or department must stamp the credentials with the word “RETIRED.”

(C)(1) Subject to the limitations of subsection (E), A qualified retired law enforcement officer may carry a concealed weapon in this State if the qualified retired law enforcement officer possesses an identification card along with a certification that the qualified retired law enforcement officer has, not less recently than one year before the date the individual is carrying the firearm, has met the standards established by the agency for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers to carry a firearm of the same type as the concealed firearm.

(2) The firearms certification required by this subsection may be reflected on the identification card or may be in a separate document carried with the identification card.

(D) The restrictions contained in Section 23‑31‑220 are applicable to a person carrying a concealed weapon pursuant to this section. Carrying a concealed weapon into the residence or dwelling place of another person is prohibited without the expressed permission of the owner or person in legal control or possession of the premises, as appropriate.

(E) The agency or department must provide the qualified retired law enforcement officer with the opportunity to qualify to carry a firearm under the same standards for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers to carry firearms. However, the agency or department, as provided in 18 U.S.C. Section 926C, may require the qualified retired law enforcement officer to pay the actual expenses of the training and qualification.

(F) At no charge, the State Law Enforcement Division shall issue concealed weapon permits to holders of qualified retired law enforcement officer credentials who:

(1) are allowed to carry a concealed weapon pursuant to subsection (C); and

(2) do not possess a valid South Carolina Concealed Weapon Permit.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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