A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING PERMITS TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN, AND, IN CONNECTION THERewith, ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASSES.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

Under existing law, an applicant for a permit to carry a concealed handgun (permit) must demonstrate competence with a handgun, which the applicant may do by completing a handgun training class (initial class) offered by a verified instructor. Beginning July 1, 2025, the bill requires concealed handgun training classes to be held in person and include
instruction regarding:

- Knowledge and safe handling of firearms and ammunition;
- Safe storage of firearms and child safety;
- Safe firearms shooting fundamentals;
- Federal and state laws pertaining to the lawful purchase, ownership, transportation, use, and possession of firearms;
- State law pertaining to the use of deadly force for self-defense; and
- Techniques for avoiding a criminal attack and how to manage a violent confrontation, including conflict resolution and judgmental use of lethal force.

A student must achieve a passing score on a written concealed handgun competency exam and in a live-fire exercise to complete an initial class. An initial class must provide at least 8 hours of instruction, including the live-fire exercise and written exam.

The bill requires completion of an initial class or a concealed handgun refresher class (refresher class) for renewal of a permit, unless an exemption applies. A student in a refresher class must demonstrate safety and competence with a handgun. The refresher class must be held in person, be taught by a verified instructor, include instruction on changes to laws related to firearms, and require a passing score on a live-fire exercise and written exam. A refresher class must provide at least 2 hours of instruction, including the live-fire exercise and written exam.

The bill requires the Colorado bureau of investigation to verify class instructors.

The bill allows a person to demonstrate competence with a handgun by holding a current certification as a peace officer. The bill prohibits a person from being issued a permit if the person was convicted of certain misdemeanor offenses within 5 years before submitting a permit application.

The bill makes it a deceptive trade practice for a person to claim to be a verified instructor for a concealed handgun training class unless the person is verified as a firearms instructor by the Colorado bureau of investigation.

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1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

2 SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-202, amend

3 (8); repeal (2) and (5); and add (3.5), (6.5), and (9) as follows:

4 18-12-202. Definitions. As used in this part 2, unless the context

5 otherwise requires:
(2) "Certified instructor" means an instructor for a firearms safety course who is certified as a firearms instructor by:

(a) A county, municipal, state, or federal law enforcement agency;
(b) The peace officers standards and training board created in section 24-31-302, C.R.S.;
(c) A federal military agency; or
(d) A national nonprofit organization that certifies firearms instructors, operates national firearms competitions, and provides training, including courses in personal protection, in small arms safety, use, and marksmanship.

(3.5) "CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASS" MEANS A CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASS AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 18-12-202.5 AND DOES NOT INCLUDE A REFRESHER CLASS.

(5) (a) "Handgun training class" means:
(I) A law enforcement training firearms safety course;
(II) A firearms safety course offered by a law enforcement agency, an institution of higher education, or a public or private institution or organization or firearms training school, that is open to the general public and is taught by a certified instructor; or
(III) A firearms safety course or class that is offered and taught by a certified instructor.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection (5), "handgun training class" does not include any firearms safety course that allows a person to complete the entire course:
(I) Via the internet or an electronic device; or
(II) In any location other than the physical location where the certified instructor offers the course.
(6.5) "REFRESHER CLASS" MEANS A CONCEALED HANDGUN REFRESHER CLASS AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 18-12-202.5 (4).

(8) "Training certificate" means a certificate affidavit, or other document issued by the instructor, school, club, or organization that a verified instructor who conducts a concealed handgun training class or a refresher class that evidences an applicant's successful completion of the class requirements.

(9) "VERIFIED INSTRUCTOR" MEANS AN INSTRUCTOR FOR A FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE VERIFIED AS A FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR BY THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-12-202.7.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 18-12-202.5 as follows:

18-12-202.5. Concealed handgun training class - refresher class - rules. (1) A CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASS IS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

(a) A LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE; OR

(b) A FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE TAUGHT BY A VERIFIED INSTRUCTOR AND OFFERED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; OR A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INSTITUTION, ORGANIZATION, OR FIREARMS TRAINING SCHOOL, THAT IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND IS TAUGHT BY A VERIFIED INSTRUCTOR.

SHOOTING EXERCISE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(g) OF THIS SECTION
AND THE WRITTEN CONCEALED HANDGUN COMPETENCY EXAM DESCRIBED
IN SUBSECTION (3)(h) OF THIS SECTION.

(3) A CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASS MUST INCLUDE THE
FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

(a) INSTRUCTION REGARDING KNOWLEDGE AND SAFE HANDLING OF
FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION;

(b) INSTRUCTION REGARDING SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS AND
CHILD SAFETY;

(c) INSTRUCTION REGARDING SAFE FIREARMS SHOOTING
FUNDAMENTALS;

(d) INSTRUCTION REGARDING FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS
PERTAINING TO THE LAWFUL PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP, TRANSPORTATION,
USE, AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, INCLUDING INSTRUCTION ON EXTREME
RISK PROTECTION ORDERS DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 14.5 OF TITLE 13,
REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS DESCRIBED IN
SECTION 18-12-113, SECURE FIREARMS STORAGE REQUIREMENTS
DESCRIBED IN SECTION 18-12-114, AND ANY OTHER STATE LAW ENACTED
WITHIN FIVE YEARS BEFORE THE CLASS THAT PERTAINS TO THE PURCHASE,
OWNERSHIP, TRANSPORTATION, USE, AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS;

(e) INSTRUCTION REGARDING STATE LAW PERTAINING TO THE USE
OF DEADLY FORCE FOR SELF-DEFENSE;

(f) INSTRUCTION REGARDING TECHNIQUES FOR AVOIDING A
CRIMINAL ATTACK AND HOW TO MANAGE A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION,
INCLUDING CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND JUDGMENTAL USE OF LETHAL
FORCE;

(g) A REQUIREMENT THAT A STUDENT ACHIEVE A MINIMUM
SEVENTY PERCENT ACCURACY SCORE IN A LIVE-FIRE SHOOTING EXERCISE
CONDUCTED ON A RANGE, WHICH REQUIRE DISCHARGING AT LEAST FIFTY
ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION; AND

(h) A REQUIREMENT THAT A STUDENT ACHIEVE A PASSING SCORE
OF AT LEAST EIGHTY PERCENT ON A WRITTEN CONCEALED HANDGUN
COMPETENCY EXAM DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED BY THE COLORADO BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(b) OF THIS SECTION. THE
EXAM MUST BE ADMINISTERED AS AN OPEN BOOK EXAM.

(4) (a) A CONCEALED HANDGUN REFRESHER CLASS REQUIRES A
STUDENT TO DEMONSTRATE SAFETY AND COMPETENCE WITH A HANDGUN.
A REFRESHER CLASS MUST BE TAUGHT BY A VERIFIED INSTRUCTOR AND
MUST INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON CHANGES TO FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS
RELATED TO FIREARMS ENACTED WITHIN FIVE YEARS BEFORE THE
REFRESHER CLASS; A LIVE-FIRE SHOOTING EXERCISE CONDUCTED ON A
RANGE, WHICH REQUIRE DISCHARGING AT LEAST FIFTY ROUNDS OF
AMMUNITION; AND A WRITTEN CONCEALED HANDGUN COMPETENCY EXAM
DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED BY THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

(b) A REFRESHER CLASS MUST BE HELD IN PERSON WITH THE
INSTRUCTOR OF THE CLASS AT THE SAME LOCATION AS THE STUDENTS,
AND NO PART OF THE CLASS MAY BE CONDUCTED VIA THE INTERNET. A
REFRESHER CLASS MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST TWO HOURS OF INSTRUCTION,
INCLUDING THE LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE AND THE WRITTEN EXAM. IN ORDER
TO COMPLETE A REFRESHER CLASS, A STUDENT MUST ACHIEVE A MINIMUM
SEVENTY PERCENT ACCURACY SCORE IN THE LIVE-FIRE SHOOTING
EXERCISE AND A PASSING SCORE OF AT LEAST EIGHTY PERCENT ON THE
WRITTEN EXAM. THE EXAM MUST BE ADMINISTERED AS AN OPEN BOOK
EXAM.

(c) A TRAINING CERTIFICATE ISSUED FOR THE COMPLETION OF A REFRESHER CLASS IS VALID FOR RENEWAL OF A PERMIT TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-12-211, BUT IS NOT VALID FOR AN INITIAL APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-12-203 (1)(h)(VI).

(5) A VERIFIED INSTRUCTOR SHALL PROVIDE A TRAINING CERTIFICATE THAT INCLUDES THE PRINTED NAME AND ORIGINAL SIGNATURE OF THE CLASS INSTRUCTOR TO ANY STUDENT WHO COMPLETES A CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASS OR A REFRESHER CLASS SO THAT THE STUDENT MAY SUBMIT THE CERTIFICATE TO A SHERIFF AS PART OF AN INITIAL APPLICATION FOR, OR AN APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF, A PERMIT TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN. THE TRAINING CERTIFICATE MUST CLEARLY INDICATE WHETHER THE STUDENT COMPLETED A CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASS OR A REFRESHER CLASS.

(6) (a) THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION. AT A MINIMUM, THE RULES MUST INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WRITTEN EXAM DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

(b) THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SHALL DEVELOP A WRITTEN CONCEALED HANDGUN COMPETENCY EXAM FOR THE CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASS AND REFRESHER CLASS, OR THE BUREAU SHALL ADOPT AN EXISTING WRITTEN EXAM THAT TESTS A PERSON'S KNOWLEDGE OF COMPETENT HANDGUN POSSESSION AND USE.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 18-12-202.7 as follows:
18-12-202.7. Concealed handgun training class - instructor verification - rules. (1) The Colorado Bureau of Investigation shall verify as a firearms instructor any person who satisfies the requirements for verification described in this section and rules promulgated pursuant to subsection (6) of this section, and who pays any fee required pursuant to subsection (5) of this section.

(2) To become a verified instructor, an applicant must:

(a) hold a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun issued pursuant to this part 2 that is not a temporary emergency permit issued pursuant to section 18-12-209; and

(b) be certified as a firearms instructor by a national nonprofit organization that certifies firearms instructors, operates national firearms competitions, and provides training, including courses in personal protection, small arms safety, use, and marksmanship.

(3) (a) An instructor verification issued pursuant to this section is valid for ten years and may be renewed at any time prior to expiration.

(b) The Colorado Bureau of Investigation shall issue evidence of verification to a verified instructor. The evidence of verification must include the date of expiration of the verification.

(c) The Colorado Bureau of Investigation shall maintain a record of verified instructors and shall post a list of verified instructors on the bureau's website. The list must include the expiration date of an instructor's verification.
(4) (a) The Colorado Bureau of Investigation, pursuant to the provisions of Article 4 of Title 24, shall revoke a verification issued pursuant to this section if the verified instructor ceases to meet the requirements for verification.

(b) The Colorado Bureau of Investigation, pursuant to the provisions of Article 4 of Title 24, may revoke or suspend a verification issued pursuant to this section if the verified instructor provides instruction in a concealed handgun training class or refresher class that fails to meet the requirements for the class pursuant to this Part 2 and that results in the issuance of a training certificate. A person who has had a verification suspended pursuant to this subsection (4)(b) may apply for reinstatement no earlier than thirty days following suspension.

(5) The Colorado Bureau of Investigation may establish and impose a fee to cover the actual direct and indirect costs of processing applications and issuing and renewing verifications pursuant to this section.

(6) The Colorado Bureau of Investigation may promulgate rules for the verification of instructors pursuant to this section. If the bureau promulgates rules, the bureau shall consult with the attorney general, a Colorado sheriffs' organization, and a firearms instructor certified by a national nonprofit organization prior to promulgating the rules.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-203, amend (1)(h)(I) and (1)(h)(VI); and add (1)(c.5) as follows:

18-12-203. Criteria for obtaining a permit. (1) Beginning May 17, 2003, except as set forth in this section, a sheriff shall issue a permit
to carry a concealed handgun to an applicant who:

(c.5) HAS NOT BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY OF THE OFFENSES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-33.5-424 (3)(b.3) COMMITTED ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (1)(c.5), IF THE OFFENSE IS CLASSIFIED AS A MISDEMEANOR, AND THE APPLICANT HAS NOT BEEN CONVICTED IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION, INCLUDING A MILITARY OR FEDERAL JURISDICTION, OF AN OFFENSE THAT, IF COMMITTED IN COLORADO, WOULD CONSTITUTE ANY OF THE OFFENSES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-33.5-424 (3)(b.3) CLASSIFIED AS A MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE, WITHIN FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO FILING THE PERMIT APPLICATION;

(h) Demonstrates competence with a handgun by submitting:

(i) Evidence of experience with a firearm through participation in organized shooting competitions, or current military service, OR CURRENT CERTIFICATION AS A PEACE OFFICER PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 2.5 OF TITLE 16;

(VI) A training certificate from a CONCEALED handgun training class obtained within the ten years ONE YEAR preceding submittal of the application. The applicant shall submit the original training certificate or a photocopy thereof that includes the PRINTED NAME AND original signature of the class VERIFIED instructor. To the extent permitted by section 18-12-202 (5) SECTION 18-12-202.5, in obtaining a training certificate from a CONCEALED handgun training class, the applicant shall have HAS discretion in selecting which CONCEALED handgun training class to complete.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-211, amend (1)(a); and add (3) as follows:

18-12-211. Renewal of permits. (1) (a) Within one hundred
twenty days prior to expiration of a permit, the permittee may obtain a
renewal form from the sheriff of the county or city and county in which
the permittee resides or from the sheriff of the county or city and county
in which the permittee maintains a secondary residence or owns or leases
real property used by the permittee in a business and renew the permit by
DEMONSTRATING COMPETENCE WITH A HANDGUN, AS DESCRIBED IN
SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, AND submitting to the sheriff a
completed renewal form; a notarized affidavit stating that the
permittee remains qualified pursuant to the criteria specified in section
18-12-203 (1)(a) to (1)(g); and the required renewal fee not to exceed
fifty dollars, as set by the sheriff pursuant to section 18-12-205 (5). The
renewal form must meet the requirements specified in section 18-12-205
(1) for an application.

(3) A PERMITTEE SEEKING RENEWAL PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION
MAY DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCE WITH A HANDGUN BY SUBMITTING:

(a) EVIDENCE OF DEMONSTRATING COMPETENCE WITH FIREARMS
THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED SHOOTING COMPETITIONS,
CURRENT MILITARY SERVICE, OR CURRENT CERTIFICATION AS A PEACE
OFFICER PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 2.5 OF TITLE 16;

(b) EVIDENCE THAT, AT THE TIME THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED,
THE APPLICANT IS A VERIFIED INSTRUCTOR;

(c) PROOF OF HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM A BRANCH OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES THAT REFLECTS PISTOL QUALIFICATIONS
OBTAINED WITHIN THE TEN YEARS PRECEDING SUBMITTAL OF THE
RENEWAL FORM;

(d) A CERTIFICATE SHOWING RETIREMENT FROM A COLORADO LAW
ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT REFLECTS PISTOL QUALIFICATIONS
OBTAINED WITHIN THE TEN YEARS PRECEDING SUBMITTAL OF THE RENEWAL FORM; OR

(e) A TRAINING CERTIFICATE THAT INCLUDES THE ORIGINAL SIGNATURE OF THE CLASS INSTRUCTOR FROM A CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASS OR A REFRESHER CLASS, DESCRIBED IN SECTION 18-12-202.5, OBTAINED WITHIN SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO SUBMITTING A RENEWAL FORM.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-215, amend (2) as follows:

18-12-215. Immunity. (2) A law enforcement officer or agency, medical personnel, and an organization that offers CONCEALED handgun training classes OR REFRESHER CLASSES and its personnel who in good faith provide information regarding an applicant shall not be liable for any damages that may result from issuance or denial of a permit.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 6-1-707, add (1)(f) as follows:

6-1-707. Use of title or degree - deceptive trade practice. (1) A person engages in a deceptive trade practice when, in the course of the person's business, vocation, or occupation, the person:

(f) CLAIMS TO BE A VERIFIED INSTRUCTOR FOR A FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE THAT SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 18-12-202.5, UNLESS THE PERSON IS VERIFIED AS A FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR BY THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-12-202.7.

SECTION 8. Act subject to petition - effective date. Sections 1, 4, 5, and 6 of this act take effect July 1, 2025, and the remainder of this act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor; except that sections 1, 4, 5, and 6 of this act take effect July 1, 2025.