



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

April 15, 2015

Testimony in Favor of Assembly Bill 75

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members for having me here to testify today in favor of Assembly Bill 75. I am happy with work with Representative Kleefisch in advancing this important legislation.

Last legislative session, a Commander at Fort McCoy requested this bill to make Wisconsin friendlier for those armed forces members stationed in Wisconsin. Under current Wisconsin law, the Department of Justice cannot issue a concealed carry permit to an applicant that is not a Wisconsin resident. This bill would simply allow qualified individuals serving in the US armed forces for at least a year in Wisconsin to obtain a concealed permit.

Many of those stationed in Wisconsin who serve in the armed forces are residents of a different state and may already hold a concealed carry permit in those states. Wisconsin has CCW reciprocity for 29 of those states but there is no option under current law for those serving from non-reciprocity states to legally carry concealed in Wisconsin. This means that even if that person has the extensive firearm training provided by the United States Military, and/or a CCW permit in 20 other states, they would not be allowed to carry concealed in Wisconsin.

This common sense measure will allow those who risk their lives day in and day out to protect our country to lawfully carry concealed and protect themselves in Wisconsin. Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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JOEL KLEEFISCH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 38th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 75: Relating to: Eligibility for a license to carry a concealed weapon for a member of the US armed forces stationed in Wisconsin

Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations

Thank you Chairman Swearingen and members of the Committee on State Affairs for holding a hearing today on Assembly Bill 75, authored by myself and Senator Van Wanggaard. Assembly Bill 75 will make it easier for servicemen and women to obtain a valid Conceal Carry License while they are stationed here in Wisconsin.

This legislation is a redraft of a bill from last session introduced by myself and former Representative Amy Sue Vruwink. We introduced the legislation because while visiting Fort McCoy, Representative Vruwink was approached by a commander who indicated this would be a great way to make Wisconsin more hospitable to servicemen who are stationed in Wisconsin for extended periods of time.

Assembly Bill 75 makes one small change to Wisconsin's Concealed Carry Law; it provides that the Department of Justice can issue a license to an individual who is not a resident of this state, as long as they are stationed in Wisconsin for longer than one year. Under current law, the Department can only issue licenses to Wisconsin residents.

The bill still requires the military resident to adhere to the same application process and training standards required for any other Wisconsin resident seeking a permit. Additionally, it requires the military resident to surrender their license at the time they cease to be stationed here.