



Text File

Introduced: 10/4/2011

Bill No: 2011-2156, **Version:** 1

Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires that in order for an individual to carry a concealed firearm in public, he or she must be authorized to carry a concealed firearm by an appropriate agency, and while carrying a concealed firearm, must also be carrying a permit issued by that agency; and

WHEREAS, throughout most of Pennsylvania, including Allegheny County, it is County Sheriffs who are responsible for administering concealed carry permits, and it is County Sheriffs who are assigned the duty of determining whether or not an applicant meets Pennsylvania's minimum standards to be issued a concealed carry permit; and,

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania law prohibits the issuance of concealed carry permits to individuals who have been convicted of a drug or alcohol offense, found to be mentally ill, a fugitive of the law, or deemed to be a risk to the public safety of the citizens of this Commonwealth; and,

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has established reciprocity agreements with 25 other states, acknowledging our similar permit issuing standards, and agreeing to honor the concealed carry permits issued by those states within our own borders, so long as their permitting standards remain equivalent to our own; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is considering bill, HR 822, "The National Right To Carry Reciprocity Act," which would require Pennsylvania to accept the concealed carry permits issued by any state in the nation - whether or not Pennsylvania has negotiated a reciprocity agreement with those states, and regardless of whether or not those states utilize permitting guidelines similar to our own; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would undermine the authority of Pennsylvania law enforcement officers who are on the front lines of the struggle against gun violence, by potentially allowing Pennsylvania residents who have been denied a concealed carry permit, who have had their permit revoked, or who would be otherwise ineligible to carry a concealed firearm, to side-step Pennsylvania authorities and apply for a concealed carry permit from another state; and

WHEREAS, residents of other states that do not meet permitting guidelines similar to Pennsylvania's, who have been granted concealed carry permits by their own state, can travel to Pennsylvania, posing a threat to Pennsylvania residents; and

WHEREAS, this threat is of particular concern in Western Pennsylvania because Pennsylvania does not share reciprocity with Ohio or New York State; and

WHEREAS, automatically expanding reciprocity to all states may cause confusion for police officers who are suddenly tasked with determining the validity of concealed carry permits from twice as many different states and agencies, many of which have different issuing standards than Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the federal government forcing states to accept the concealed carry permits issued by other states is a DIRECT violation of Pennsylvania's sovereignty and shows disregard and contempt for the Constitutional principle of States' Rights;

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh, does hereby oppose House Bill 822, the proposed “National Right to Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011” as introduced by Congressman Cliff Stearns of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh, does hereby call upon the members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation - especially Senator Pat Toomey and Senator Robert Casey - to join us in opposition to this dangerous bill, and to vote against it when it comes to a vote on the House or Senate floor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Leadership of the United States Congress and to each member of the Pennsylvania Delegation.