

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1663

4
5 By: Representative Dotson
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO TEMPORARILY EXTEND THE VALIDITY OF AN
9 EXPIRED LICENSE TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN DURING
10 THE CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) PUBLIC HEALTH
11 EMERGENCY; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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16 TO TEMPORARILY EXTEND THE VALIDITY OF AN
17 EXPIRED LICENSE TO CARRY A CONCEALED
18 HANDGUN DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH
19 EMERGENCY; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary legislation.

25 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect high-risk
26 persons from potential coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) exposure by granting
27 persons with a license to carry a concealed handgun a grace period for
28 license renewals that would require in-person activities to complete the
29 renewal process.

30 (b) A person who possesses or possessed a valid license to carry a
31 concealed handgun issued by this state that expired on or after March 17,
32 2020, and who is or was considered to be in a high-risk category as
33 determined by the Department of Health as it pertains to coronavirus 2019
34 (COVID-19) exposure may apply to the Division of Arkansas State Police for:

35 (1) An automatic reinstatement of his or her license to carry a
36 concealed handgun if the person's license to carry a concealed handgun has



1 expired; or

2 (2) An extension of time during which the license to carry a
 3 concealed handgun shall remain valid without a renewal.

4 (c) A person who makes a request under subdivision (b)(1) of this
 5 section shall have his or her license to carry a concealed handgun renewed
 6 and considered valid for a period of up to eighteen (18) months as determined
 7 by the Director of the Division of Arkansas State Police.

8 (d) A person who makes a request under subdivision (b)(2) of this act
 9 shall be granted a period of up to eighteen (18) months by the director to
 10 complete the in-person requirements of a license renewal.

11 (e) During the time periods described under subsections (c) and (d) of
 12 this section, a license to carry a concealed handgun shall remain valid
 13 unless it is otherwise suspended or revoked by law.

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 15 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 16 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that certain persons are at a
 17 higher risk of coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) exposure or sickness due to the
 18 person's age, health conditions, or employment; that requiring a high risk
 19 person to attend to certain aspects of concealed handgun licensing renewal in
 20 person is not safe for either the licensee or any other person the licensee
 21 may come into contact with; and that this act is immediately necessary
 22 because a license to carry a concealed handgun provides safety and security
 23 to a licensee and requiring a licensee to renew in person ignores public
 24 health recommendations to avoid public interactions when possible. Therefore,
 25 an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary
 26 for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
 27 effective on:

28 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

29 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
 30 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
 31 bill; or

32 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
 33 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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