

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

H.B. 254  
Mar 9, 2021  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10111-MLy-75D

Short Title: Const. Amend./Concealed Carry. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Pittman and Kidwell (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO EQUALIZE OPEN CARRY AND CONCEALED CARRY OF DEFENSIVE  
3 WEAPONS BY REMOVING THE PROHIBITION OF CONCEALED CARRY AND TO  
4 UPHOLD THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS FOR SELF-DEFENSE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Section 30 of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
7 rewritten:

8 "Sec. 30. Militia and the right to bear arms.

9 A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people  
10 to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; and, as standing armies in time of peace are  
11 dangerous to liberty, they shall not be maintained, and the military shall be kept under strict  
12 subordination to, and governed by, the civil power. ~~Nothing herein shall justify the practice of~~  
13 ~~carrying concealed weapons, or prevent the General Assembly from enacting penal statutes~~  
14 ~~against that practice.~~ Any citizen of the United States who (i) has not been indicted or convicted  
15 of a violent crime or possession or distribution of a controlled substance and (ii) has not been  
16 adjudicated mentally incompetent has the right to carry any legal weapon for self-defense, either  
17 openly or concealed, with or without a permit, except on public or private property that is legally  
18 posted against it. A system of concealed carry permits shall be maintained for purposes of  
19 reciprocity with other States and ease of purchasing weapons, but no law-abiding citizen shall be  
20 required to obtain such a permit to carry a concealed weapon."

21 SECTION 2. The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to  
22 the qualified voters of the State at the general election in 2022, which election shall be conducted  
23 under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used  
24 in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting  
25 systems and ballots shall be:

26 "[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

27 Constitutional amendment to make it a right for any citizen who has not been indicted  
28 or convicted of a violent crime to carry any legal weapon for self-defense, either openly or  
29 concealed, with or without a permit, except on public or private property that is legally posted  
30 against it."

31 SECTION 3. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment  
32 set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the amendment to the  
33 Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so certified among the  
34 permanent records of that office. The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act becomes  
35 effective upon certification and applies to takings after that date.



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1                   **SECTION 4.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
2 law.