



What Federally Mandated Concealed Carry Reciprocity would mean for Ohio

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are debating a bill that would force each state to recognize the concealed carry laws of every other state.

Currently, states have the right to choose which states' concealed carry permits they recognize, which is important because the requirements to carry hidden, loaded guns in public vary drastically from state to state. If concealed carry reciprocity passes, that will no longer be the case, and **Ohio will be forced to allow unlicensed, unvetted people from out of state carry guns in public places.**

As of today, 12 states—including Ohio's neighbor, West Virginia—do not require any permit or training to carry hidden, loaded guns in public. If this bill becomes federal law, almost any person from these states would be **automatically authorized** to carry concealed in Ohio, regardless of whether that person meets Ohio's standards for a concealed carry permit, such as having passed a background check.

Ohio law does not allow those without concealed carry permits to carry in Ohio. If the concealed carry reciprocity bill passes, Ohio would be federally mandated to change state law and honor the weak or nonexistent concealed carry standards of other states, **making Ohio less safe and putting law enforcement at risk.**

REQUIREMENTS TO CARRY CONCEALED IN...

	OHIO	WEST VIRGINIA
Must obtain a permit?	An Ohio resident must apply to the local sheriff or obtain a permit from another state.	A person 21 years of age or older does NOT need a permit to carry concealed in West Virginia.
Must pass a background check?	The sheriff conducts a fingerprint-based criminal records and incompetency check, as well as a check of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.	A person armed with a concealed handgun may never have undergone a background check and undergoes NO vetting process in West Virginia.
Must NOT be a threat to public safety?	Any person who has been convicted of or pled guilty to two or more assaults, even at the misdemeanor level, within the last five years is ineligible for a permit.	A person convicted of assault at the misdemeanor level multiple times may still legally carry concealed, unless the assaults were domestically related.
Must complete safety training?	Requires training that includes at least two hours of in-person range time and live-fire training, as well as other given benchmarks of competency.	A person age 21 or older is legally allowed to carry concealed with NO training or experience with firearms.
Will be held accountable?	A sheriff maintains an automated database of concealed carry holder information for law enforcement, including if a permit is suspended, revoked, lost, or destroyed.	A law enforcement officer in West Virginia has NO way to verify that an armed individual he or she encounters is carrying legally.