- 1 HB44
- 2 214779-1
- 3 By Representatives Sorrell, Sullivan, Mooney, Kiel,
- 4 Stadthagen, Rowe, Kitchens, Whorton, Harbison, Wadsworth,
- 5 Estes, Wood (D), Dismukes, Lipscomb, Fincher, Holmes, Greer,
- 6 Easterbrook, Crawford, Carns, Standridge, Brown (C), Marques,
- Robbins, Meadows, Moore (P), Garrett, Robertson, Stringer,
- 8 Gaston, Wheeler, Oliver, Hanes, McCutcheon, Smith, Wilcox,
- 9 Shedd, Treadaway and Isbell
- 10 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
- 11 First Read: 11-JAN-22

1	214779-1:n	1:10/27/2021:CNB/bm LSA2021-1670
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8	SYNOPSIS:	This bill would repeal certain restrictions
9		on the carrying or possession of a firearm on
10		certain property or in a motor vehicle by persons
11		with or without a concealed pistol permit.
12		This bill would revise certain restrictions
13		on the carrying or possession of firearms at
14		certain locations.
15		This bill would eliminate the need for a
16		person to obtain a concealed carry permit in order
17		to carry a pistol.
18		This bill would also make nonsubstantive,
19		technical revisions to update the existing code
20		language to current style.
21		Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama
22		of 1901, as amended by Amendment 890, now appearing
23		as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of
24		the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, prohibits a
25		general law whose purpose or effect would be to
26		require a new or increased expenditure of local
27		funds from becoming effective with regard to a

1 local governmental entity without enactment by a 2 2/3 vote unless: it comes within one of a number of 3 specified exceptions; it is approved by the affected entity; or the Legislature appropriates funds, or provides a local source of revenue, to the entity for the purpose.

> The purpose or effect of this bill would be to require a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of the amendment. However, the bill does not require approval of a local governmental entity or enactment by a 2/3 vote to become effective because it comes within one of the specified exceptions contained in the amendment.

14

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

## 15 A BILL

16 TO BE ENTITLED

17 AN ACT

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

Relating to firearms; to amend Sections 13A-11-7, 13A-11-50, 13A-11-55, 13A-11-61.2, 13A-11-62, 13A-11-71, 13A-11-75, as last amended by Act 2021-246, 2021 Regular Session, and Sections 13A-11-85 and 13A-11-90, Code of Alabama 1975, to delete certain language regarding the carrying of a visible pistol; to delete certain language regarding the carrying of a concealed pistol; to revise certain restrictions on the carrying or possession of firearms at certain locations; to eliminate the requirement for a person to obtain

- 1 a concealed carry permit in order to carry a pistol; to revise 2 language regarding an employee storing a firearm in the employee's vehicle; to make nonsubstantive, technical 3 revisions to update the existing code language to current 4 style; to repeal Sections 9-11-304, 13A-11-52, 13A-11-73, and 5 13A-11-74, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the carrying or 6 7 possession of a firearm or pistol, to repeal certain 8 restrictions on the carrying or possession of a firearm on 9 certain property or in a motor vehicle; and in connection 10 therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the 11 meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 12 13 1901, as amended by Amendment 890, now appearing as Section 14 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of 15 Alabama of 1901.
- 16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
- Section 1. Sections 13A-11-7, 13A-11-50, 13A-11-55, 13A-11-61.2, 13A-11-62, 13A-11-71, 13A-11-85, and 13A-11-90,
- 19 Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
- 20 "\$13A-11-7.
- "(a) A person commits the crime of disorderly

  conduct if, with intent to cause public inconvenience,

  annoyance, or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof, he

  or she does any of the following:
- "(1) Engages in fighting or in violent tumultuous or threatening behavior.
- "(2) Makes unreasonable noise.

- "(3) In a public place uses abusive or obscene
  language or makes an obscene gesture.
- "(4) Without lawful authority, disturbs any lawful
  assembly or meeting of persons.
  - "(5) Obstructs vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or a transportation facility.
    - "(6) Congregates with other person another person in a public place and refuses to comply with a lawful order of law enforcement to disperse.
      - "(b) Disorderly conduct is a Class C misdemeanor.
    - "(c) It shall be a rebuttable presumption that the The mere carrying of a visible pistol, holstered or secured, in a public place, in and of itself, is not a violation of this section.
    - "(d) Nothing in Act 2013-283 shall be construed to prohibit law enforcement personnel who have reasonable suspicion from acting to prevent a breach of the peace or from taking action to preserve public safety.

"\$13A-11-50.

2.0

"Except as otherwise provided in this Code by law, a person who carries concealed about his person a bowie knife or knife or instrument of like kind or description or a pistol or firearm of any other kind or an air gun shall, on conviction, be fined not less than \$50.00 fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than \$500.00 five hundred dollars (\$500), and may also be imprisoned in the county jail or sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than six months.

1 "\$13A-11-55.

"(a) In an indictment for In the prosecution for carrying weapons unlawfully, it is sufficient for the complaint to state, with particularity, to charge that the defendant carried concealed about his or her person a pistol, or other description of firearms, on premises not his own, or a bowie knife, or other knife or instrument of the like kind or description, or other forbidden weapon., describing it, as the case may be;

"(b) and the excuse, if any, must be proved by the defendant on the trial, to the satisfaction of the jury; and if the evidence offered to excuse the charge raises a reasonable doubt of the defendant's guilt, the jury must acquit him. The burden of injecting the issue of justification in subsection (a) is on the defendant, but this does not shift the burden of proof.

"\$13A-11-61.2.

"(a) In addition to any other place limited or prohibited by state or federal law, a person, including a person with a permit issued under Section 13A-11-75(a)(1) or recognized under Section 13A-11-85, may not knowingly possess or carry a firearm in any of the following places without the express permission of a person or entity with authority over the premises:

"(1) Inside the building of a police, sheriff, or highway patrol station.

"(2) Inside or on the premises of a prison, jail, halfway house, community corrections facility, or other detention facility for those who have been charged with or convicted of a criminal or juvenile offense. It is not a violation of this subdivision to knowingly possess or carry a firearm at a location described in this subdivision if the location is also a sheriff's office that issues pistol permits and the pistol remains inside a locked vehicle at all times while the person is on the premises.

- "(3) Inside a facility which provides inpatient or custodial care of those with psychiatric, mental, or emotional disorders.
- "(4)<u>a.</u> Inside a courthouse, <u>a</u> courthouse annex, a building in which a district attorney's office is located, or a building in which a county commission or city council is currently having a regularly scheduled or specially called meeting.
- "b. For purposes of this subdivision, "courthouse annex" means a building that is currently having regularly scheduled or specially called court hearings.
- "(5) Inside any facility hosting an athletic event not related to or involving firearms which is sponsored by a private or public elementary or secondary school or any private or public institution of postsecondary education, unless the person has a permit issued under Section 13A-11-85.

"(6) Inside any facility hosting a professional athletic event not related to or involving firearms, unless the person has a permit issued under Section 13A-11-75(a)(1) or recognized under Section 13A-11-85.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

"(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), a person, including a person with a permit issued under Section  $13A-11-75\frac{(a)}{(a)}$  or recognized under Section 13A-11-85, may not, without the express permission of a person or entity with authority over the premises, may not knowingly possess or carry a firearm inside any building or facility to which access of unauthorized persons and prohibited articles is limited during normal hours of operation by the continuous on-site posting of guards who are responsible for the prevention of prohibited items from entering the facility, and the use of other security features, including, but not limited to, magnetometers, key cards, biometric screening devices, or turnstiles or other physical barriers that prevent all persons entering the facility from bringing prohibited items into the facility. Nothing in this subsection otherwise restricts the possession, transportation, or storage of a lawfully possessed firearm or ammunition in an employee's privately owned motor vehicle while parked or operated in a public or private parking area provided the employee complies with the requirements of Section 13A-11-90.

"(c) The person or entity with authority over the premises set forth in subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (a) and subsection (b) shall place a notice at the

public entrances of <u>such the</u> premises or buildings alerting those entering that firearms are prohibited.

2.0

- "(d) Except as provided in subdivisions (5) and (6) of subsection (a), any Any firearm on the premises of any facility set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (a), or subdivisions (4) to (6) inclusive, of subsection (a), or subsection (b) must shall be kept from ordinary observation and locked within a compartment or in the interior of the person's motor vehicle or in a compartment or container securely affixed to the motor vehicle.
  - "(e) A violation of subsection (a), (b), or (d) is a Class C misdemeanor.
    - "(f) This section shall not prohibit any person from possessing a firearm within the person's residence or during ingress or egress thereto.
    - "(g) Prohibitions regarding the carrying of a firearm under this section shall not apply to law enforcement officers engaged in the lawful execution of their official duties or a qualified retired law enforcement officer. For purposes of this section, qualified retired law enforcement officer shall mean a retired officer who meets all of the following requirements:
    - "(1) Was separated from service in good standing from service with a public agency as a law enforcement officer.
  - "(2) Before separation, was authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection,

investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and had statutory powers of arrest.

- "(3) Before separation, served as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of 10 years or more and separated from service with such agency, after completing any applicable probationary period of such service, due to a service-connected disability, as determined by the agency.
- "(4) During the most recent 12-month period, has met, at the expense of the individual, the standards for qualification in firearms training for active law enforcement officers, as determined by the former agency of the individual, the state in which the individual resides or, if the state has not established such standards, either a law enforcement agency within the state in which the individual resides or the standards used by a certified firearms instructor that is qualified to conduct a firearms qualification test for active duty officers within that state.
- "(5) Has not been officially found by a qualified medical professional employed by the agency to be unqualified for reasons relating to mental health, and as a result, will not be issued the photographic identification described in subdivision (8) and has not entered into an agreement with the agency from which the individual is separating from service in which that individual acknowledges he or she is not qualified under this section for reasons relating to mental health and

- for those reasons will not receive or accept the photographic identification as described in <del>subsection</del> subdivision (8).
  - "(6) Is not under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance.

2.0

- "(7) Is not prohibited by state or federal law from receiving a firearm.
  - "(8) Is carrying any of the following identification documents:
  - "a. A photographic identification issued by the agency from which the individual separated from service as a law enforcement officer that identifies the person as having been employed as a police officer or law enforcement officer and indicates that the individual has, not less recently than one year before the date the individual is carrying the concealed firearm, been tested or otherwise found by the agency to meet the active duty standards for qualification in firearms training as established by the agency to carry a firearm of the same type as the concealed firearm.
  - "b. A photographic identification issued by the agency from which the individual separated from service as a law enforcement officer that identifies the person as having been employed as a police officer or law enforcement officer, and a certification issued by the state in which the individual resides or by a certified firearms instructor who is qualified to conduct a firearms qualification test for active duty officers within that state that indicates that the individual, not less than one year before the date the

- 1 individual is carrying the concealed firearm, has been tested
- or otherwise found by the state or a certified firearms
- 3 instructor who is qualified to conduct a firearms
- 4 qualification test for active duty officers within that state
- 5 to have met either of the following:
- 6 "1. The active duty standards for qualification in
- 7 firearms training, as established by the state, to carry a
- 8 firearm of the same type as the concealed firearm.
- 9 "2. If the state has not established such standards,
- 10 standards set by any law enforcement agency within that state
- 11 to carry a firearm of the same type as the concealed firearm.
- "(h) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
- authorize the carrying or possession of a firearm where
- 14 prohibited by federal law.
- 15 "\$13A-11-62.
- "For purposes of this division, the following terms
- 17 shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly
- 18 indicates otherwise:
- "(1) FIREARM. Definition is same as provided in
- 20 Section 13A-8-1(4).
- "(2) RIFLE. Any weapon designed or redesigned, made
- 22 or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and
- designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of
- 24 the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a
- single projectile through a rifled bore for each pull of the
- 26 trigger.

- "(3) SHOTGUN. A weapon designed or redesigned, made 1 or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and 2 designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of 3 the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a 4 5 smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.
  - "(4) SHORT-BARRELED RIFLE. A rifle having one or more barrels less than 16 inches in length and any weapon made from a rifle (whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise) if such weapon, as modified, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.
  - "(5) SHORT-BARRELED SHOTGUN. A shotgun having one or more barrels less than 18 inches in length and any weapon made from a shotgun (whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise) if such weapon as modified has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

"\$13A-11-71.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

"Any person who commits or attempts to commit If any person shall commit or attempt to commit a crime of violence when armed with a pistol, he may, in addition to the punishment provided for the crime, may additionally be punished also as provided by this division. In the trial of a person for committing or attempting to commit a crime of violence, the fact that he was armed with a pistol and had no license to carry the same shall be prima facie evidence of his intention to commit said crime of violence.

"\$13A-11-85.

"(a) A person licensed to carry a handgun in any state shall be authorized to carry a handgun in this state. This section shall apply to a license holder from another state only while the license holder is not a resident of this state. A license holder from another state shall carry the handgun in compliance with the laws of this state. The issuance of a permit to carry a pistol pursuant to Section 13A-11-75 or the recognition of a nonresident license under this section does not impose a general prohibition on the carrying of a pistol without a permit.

"(b) The Attorney General is authorized to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states for the mutual recognition of licenses to carry handguns and shall periodically publish a list of states which recognize licenses issued pursuant to Section 13A-11-75.

"\$13A-11-90.

- "(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a public or private employer may restrict or prohibit its employees, including those with a permit issued or recognized under Section 13A-11-75, from carrying firearms while on the employer's property or while engaged in the duties of the person's employment.
- "(b) A public or private employer may not restrict or prohibit the transportation or storage of a lawfully possessed <u>firearm pistol</u> or ammunition in an employee's privately owned motor vehicle while parked or operated in a public or private parking area. A public or private employer

1	may not restrict or prohibit the transportation or storage of	
2	a lawfully possessed firearm, if the employee possesses a	
3	firearm, other than a pistol, which may be lawfully used for	
4	hunting in Alabama, and the employee satisfies all of the	
5	following:	
6	"(1) The employee either:	
7	"a. Has a valid concealed weapon permit; or	
8	"b. If the weapon is any firearm legal for use for	
9	hunting in Alabama other than a pistol:	
10	" $\frac{1}{1}$ . (1) The employee possesses a valid Alabama	
11	hunting license 7.	
12	"ii. (2) The weapon is unloaded at all times on the	
13	property <del>;</del> .	
14	"iii. (3) It is during a season in which hunting is	
15	permitted by Alabama law or regulation; .	
16	"iv. (4) The employee has never been convicted of	
17	any crime of violence as that term is defined in Section	
18	13A-11-70, nor of any crime set forth in Chapter 6 of Title	
19	13A, nor is subject to a Domestic Violence Order, as that term	
20	is defined in Section 13A-6-1417.	
21	"v. The employee does not meet any of the factors	
22	set forth in Section 13A-11-75(a)(1)a.1-8; and	
23	"vi. (5) The employee has no documented prior	
24	workplace incidents involving the threat of physical injury or	
25	which resulted in physical injury.	
26	" $\frac{(2)}{(6)}$ The motor vehicle is operated or parked in	
27	a location where it is otherwise permitted to be.	

1 "(3) (7) The firearm is either of the following:

2 "a. In a motor vehicle attended by the employee,

kept from ordinary observation within the person's motor

4 vehicle.

- "b. In a motor vehicle unattended by the employee, kept from ordinary observation and locked within a compartment, container, or in the interior of the person's privately owned motor vehicle or in a compartment or container securely affixed to the motor vehicle.
- "(c) If an employer believes that an employee presents a risk of harm to himself/herself himself, herself, or to others, the employer may inquire as to whether the employee possesses a firearm in his or her private motor vehicle. If the employee does possess a firearm in his or her private motor vehicle on the property of the employer, the employer may make any inquiry necessary to establish that the employee is in compliance with subsection (b).
- "(1) If the employee is not in compliance with subsection (b), the employer may take adverse employment action against the employee, in the discretion of the employer.
- "(2) If the employee has been in compliance with subsection (b) at all times, the employer may not take adverse employment action against the employee based solely on the presence of the firearm.
- "(d) If an employer discovers by other means that an employee is transporting or storing a firearm in his or her

private motor vehicle, the employer may not take any adverse employment action against the employee based solely on the possession of that firearm if the employee has complied with the requirements in subsection (b).

2.0

- "(e) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an employer from reporting to law enforcement a complaint based upon information and belief that there is credible evidence of any of the following:
  - "(1) That the employee's motor vehicle contains:
  - "a. A firearm prohibited by state or federal law.
- "b. Stolen property or a prohibited or illegal item other than a firearm.
- "(2) A threat made by an employee to cause bodily harm to themselves or others.
- "(f) If law enforcement officers, pursuant to a valid search warrant or valid warrantless search based upon probable cause, exigent circumstances, or other lawful exception to the search warrant requirement, discover a firearm prohibited by state or federal law, stolen property, or a prohibited or illegal item other than a firearm, the employer may take adverse employment action against the employee.
- "(g) However, Notwithstanding subsection (f), if the employee has fully complied with the requirements of subsection (b) and does not possess a firearm prohibited by state or federal law, that employee is entitled to recovery as specified in this subsection for any adverse employment action

against the employee. If demand for the recovery has not been satisfied within 45 calendar days, the employee may file a civil action in the appropriate court of this state against the public or private employer. A plaintiff is entitled to seek an award of all of the following:

- "(1) Compensation, if applicable, for lost wages or benefits.
- "(2) Compensation, if applicable, for other lost remuneration caused by the termination, demotion, or other adverse action.
- "(h) The license requirements set forth in sections (b) (1) a. and (b) (1) b.i. subdivision (b) (1) are for the purposes of this section only in order to determine whether an employee may transport or store a lawfully possessed firearm or ammunition in an employee's privately owned motor vehicle while parked or operated in a public or private parking area owned by the employer and shall not be construed to otherwise expand the requirements for the lawful possession of a firearm. These requirements shall not be interpreted to mean that the laws of the State of Alabama create any new connection between the possession of a hunting license and the right of a citizen to keep and bear arms.
- "(i) Prohibitions regarding the carrying of a firearm under this section shall not apply to law enforcement officers engaged in the lawful execution of their official duties.

"(j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to

authorize the transportation, carrying, storing, or possession

of a firearm or ammunition where prohibited by federal law."

Section 2. Section 13A-11-75, Code of Alabama 1975, effective until receipt by the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Services Agency of written notice from the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency certifying that the state firearms prohibited persons database is operational and fully compliant with Act 2021-246, is amended to read as follows:

"\$13A-11-75.

"(a) (1) a. The sheriff of a county, upon the application of any person residing in that county, within 30 days from receipt of a complete application and accompanying fee, shall issue or renew a permit for such person to carry a pistol in a vehicle or concealed on or about his or her person within this state for one- to five-year increments, as requested by the person seeking the permit, from date of issue, unless the sheriff determines that the person is prohibited from the possession of a pistol or firearm pursuant to state or federal law, or has a reasonable suspicion that the person may use a weapon unlawfully or in such other manner that would endanger the person's self or others. In making such determination, the sheriff may consider whether the applicant:

"1. Was found guilty but mentally ill in a criminal case.

- "2. Was found not quilty in a criminal case by 1 2 reason of insanity or mental disease or defect. "3. Was declared incompetent to stand trial in a 3 criminal case. 4 "4. Asserted a defense in a criminal case of not 5 quilty by reason of insanity or mental disease or defect. 6 "5. Was found not quilty only by reason of lack of 7 mental responsibility under the Uniform Code of Military 8 9 Justice. 10 "6. Required involuntary inpatient treatment in a psychiatric hospital or similar treatment facility. 11 "7. Required involuntary outpatient treatment in a 12 13 psychiatric hospital or similar treatment facility based on a 14 finding that the person is an imminent danger to himself or 15 herself or to others. "8. Required involuntary commitment to a psychiatric 16 17 hospital or similar treatment facility for any reason, 18 including drug use. "9. Is or was the subject of a prosecution or of a 19 2.0 commitment or incompetency proceeding that could lead to a
  - "9. Is or was the subject of a prosecution or of a commitment or incompetency proceeding that could lead to a prohibition on the receipt or possession of a firearm under the laws of Alabama or the United States.
- 23 "10. Falsified any portion of the permit application.

21

- 25 "11. Caused justifiable concern for public safety.
- "b. The sheriff shall take into account how recent any consideration under paragraph a. is in relation to the

date of the application. The sheriff shall provide a written statement of the reasons for a denial of a permit and the evidence upon which it is based must be disclosed to the applicant, unless disclosure would interfere with a criminal investigation.

"c. Except as otherwise provided by the laws of this state, a permit issued under this subdivision is valid throughout the state.

"d. Except as expressly provided in this section, a sheriff may not place conditions or requirements on the issuance of a pistol permit or limit its scope or applicability.

"(2) a. The sheriff may revoke a permit issued under subdivision (1) for any reason that could lead to a denial of a permit under that subdivision.

"b. The sheriff shall provide a written statement of the reasons for the revocation and the evidence upon which it is based must be disclosed to the applicant, unless disclosure would interfere with a criminal investigation.

"(3) A person who is denied a permit under subdivision (1), or a person whose permit is revoked under subdivision (2), within 30 days of notification of the denial or revocation, may appeal the denial or revocation to the district court of the county where the denial or revocation was issued. Upon a review of a denial under this subdivision, the sheriff shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the person is prohibited from

possession of a pistol or other firearm pursuant to state or federal law or, based on any of the considerations enumerated in subdivision (a)(1) that the person may use a weapon unlawfully or in such other manner as would endanger the person's self or others if granted a permit to carry a concealed weapon under this section.

- "(4) Within 30 days of receipt of the appeal, the district court shall review the appeal and issue a determination providing the reasons for the determination.
- "(5) If the district court issues a determination in favor of a person whose permit was denied or revoked, the person shall be issued a permit or the permit must be reinstated no later than the close of business on the fifth business day following the district court's transmittal of its order to the appropriate sheriff.
- "(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a sheriff to disregard any federal law or regulation pertaining to the purchase or possession of a firearm.
- "(b) Each permit shall be written or in an electronic or digital form to be prescribed by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Alabama Sheriff's Association, and shall bear the name, address, description, and signature of the permittee. The original hard copy of the permit shall be issued to the permittee, and a duplicate shall, within seven days, be sent by registered or certified mail to the Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency. The application and a copy shall be preserved for six

charge a fee as provided by local law for the issuance of the permit under subdivision (1) of subsection (a). The amount of the fee for a period of one year up to five years shall be the amount of the fee as prescribed by local law multiplied by the number of years of the permit requested by the applicant. The fee shall be paid into the county treasury unless otherwise provided by local law. Prior to issuance or renewal of a permit, the sheriff shall contact available local, state, and federal criminal history data banks, including the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, to determine whether possession of a firearm by an applicant would be a violation of state or federal law.

- "(c) A sheriff may not place a time constraint or other requirement upon taking possession of a pistol permit by the applicant after he or she has been notified that his or her pistol permit has been approved.
- "(d) For the convenience of the applicant, the sheriff may provide for application or renewal of a permit under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) through electronic means. The sheriff may also accept payment for a permit by debit or credit card or other consumer electronic payment method. Any transaction or banking fee charged for the electronic payment method shall be paid by the applicant.
- "(e) If a person who is not a United States citizen applies for a permit under this section, the sheriff shall conduct an Immigration Alien Query through U.S. Immigration

and Customs Enforcement, or any successor agency, and the application form shall require information relating to the applicant's country of citizenship, place of birth, and any alien or admission number issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or any successor agency. The sheriff shall review the results of these inquiries before making a determination of whether to issue a permit or renewal permit. A person who is unlawfully present in this state may not be issued a permit under this section.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

"(f) The name, address, signature, photograph, and any other personally identifying information collected from an applicant or permittee under this section shall be kept confidential, shall be exempt from disclosure under Section 36-12-40, and may only be used for law enforcement purposes except when a current permittee is charged in any state with a felony involving the use of a pistol. All other information on permits under this section, including information concerning the annual number of applicants, number of permits issued, number of permits denied or revoked, revenue from issuance of permits, and any other fiscal or statistical data otherwise, shall remain public writings subject to public disclosure. Except as provided above, the sheriff of a county shall redact the name, address, signature, photograph, and any other personally identifying information of a permit holder before releasing a copy of a permit for a non-law enforcement purpose. The sheriff may charge one dollar (\$1) per copy of any redacted permit record requested other than when requested for law enforcement purposes. To knowingly publish or release
to the public in any form any information or records related
to the licensing process, or the current validity of any
permit, except as authorized in this subsection or in response
to a court order or subpoena, is a Class A misdemeanor.

- "(g) A concealed pistol permit issued under this section shall be valid for the carrying of a pistol in a motor vehicle or concealed on the permittee's person throughout the state, unless prohibited by this section.
- "(h) This section shall not be construed to limit or place any conditions upon a person's right to carry a pistol that is not in a motor vehicle or not concealed.
- "(i) If a person issued a pistol permit in this state establishes residence in another state, the pistol permit shall expire upon the establishment of residence in the other state."

Section 3. Section 13A-11-75, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended by Act 2021-246, 2021 Regular Session, effective upon receipt by the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Services Agency of written notice from the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency certifying that the state firearms prohibited persons database is operational and fully compliant with Act 2021-246, is amended to read as follows:

"(a)(1) An Alabama resident who is 19 years of age or more may apply to the sheriff of his or her county of

residence for issuance or renewal of a concealed carry permit,
valid for one year or five years.

"(2) An Alabama resident who is 18 years of age or more and is a service member as defined in Section 35-10-70 or a retired or honorably discharged military veteran as defined in subsection (b) may apply to the sheriff of his or her county of residence for issuance or renewal of a concealed carry permit, valid for one year or five years.

"(3)a. Except as provided in paragraph b., an Alabama resident who possesses a valid concealed carry permit may apply to the sheriff of his or her county of residence for issuance of a lifetime carry permit.

"b. A sheriff may require an applicant for a lifetime carry permit to possess a valid concealed carry permit for not more than five consecutive years prior to approving the application for issuance of the permit. A sheriff's determination under this paragraph shall not be subject to any appeal or review under subsection (j).

"(b)(1) Upon receipt of an application for a concealed carry permit, the sheriff shall complete a criminal background check through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and review the state firearms prohibited person database.

"(2) The sheriff shall also review any other available local, state, and federal criminal history databases to determine whether possession of a pistol or firearm by an applicant would be a violation of state or federal law.

- "(3) Upon application by an individual who is not a 1 2 United States Citizen, the sheriff shall conduct an Immigration Alien Query through U.S. Immigration and Customs 3 4 Enforcement, or any successor agency, and the application form 5 shall require information relating to the applicant's country of citizenship, place of birth, and any alien or admission 6 7 number issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or any successor agency. The sheriff shall review the results of 8 these inquiries before making a determination of whether to 9 10 issue a permit or renew a permit. An individual who is unlawfully present in this state may not be issued a permit 11 under this section. 12
  - "(c) Within 30 days from receipt of a completed application, a sheriff shall approve or deny the application. In making a determination whether to approve or deny the issuance or renewal of a permit, the sheriff shall consider whether the applicant:

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

- "(1) Was found guilty but mentally ill in a criminal case.
- "(2) Was found not guilty in a criminal case by reason of insanity or mental disease or defect.
- "(3) Was declared incompetent to stand trial in a criminal case.
- "(4) Asserted a defense in a criminal case of not quilty by reason of insanity or mental disease or defect.

- "(5) Was found not guilty only by reason of lack of mental responsibility under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
  - "(6) Required involuntary inpatient treatment in a psychiatric hospital or similar treatment facility.

- "(7) Required involuntary outpatient treatment in a psychiatric hospital or similar treatment facility based on a finding that the individual is an imminent danger to himself or herself or to others.
- "(8) Required involuntary commitment to a psychiatric hospital or similar treatment facility for any reason, including drug use.
- "(9) Is or was the subject of a prosecution or of a commitment or incompetency proceeding that could lead to a prohibition on the receipt or possession of a firearm under the laws of Alabama or the United States.
- "(10) Falsified any portion of the permit application.
- "(11) Caused or causes justifiable concern for public safety.
  - "(d)(1) If the sheriff determines that any of the factors in subsection (c) apply to the applicant, or that the criminal background check under subsection (b) returned any result showing that the applicant is prohibited from the possession of a pistol or firearm pursuant to state or federal law, the sheriff shall deny the application.

"(2) If the sheriff cannot determine whether or not a factor listed in subsection (c) applies to the applicant, the sheriff may request additional information from the applicant.

- "(3)a. Upon the denial by a sheriff of an application for a concealed carry permit, the sheriff shall immediately give a written notice to the applicant giving the specific reason or reasons for denial, the date of completion of the background check, and the name and signature of the sheriff whose office conducted the background check.
- "b. If the sheriff denies an application due to a determination that the issuance or renewal of a permit to an individual would cause or causes justifiable concern for public safety, the sheriff shall clearly articulate the reasoning behind that determination within the written notice.
- "(4) The sheriff shall notify the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency of a denial of an application for a permit in a manner as prescribed by the commission for entry into the state firearms prohibited person database if the reason for that denial was due to the applicant being ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law.
- "(5) Upon receiving notice of a denial of an application for a concealed carry permit due to the applicant being prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law, or a conviction or court order that would prohibit that individual from possessing a pistol or firearm under state or federal law, the Alabama State Law Enforcement

Agency shall enter the information into the state firearms
prohibited person database and ensure that a "Firearms
Prohibited Person" notice is viewable by law enforcement
officers and other authorized persons through the Law
Enforcement Tactical System.

"(e)(1) If the sheriff determines that the applicant is not prohibited from the possession of a pistol or firearm under state or federal law and that the applicant should not otherwise be denied a concealed carry permit pursuant to this section, the sheriff, upon receipt of the appropriate fee as provided in subsection (f), shall approve the application.

"(2) a. Immediately upon approval of an application for a concealed carry permit, the sheriff shall issue the applicant a secure permit card to carry a pistol in a vehicle or concealed on or about his or her person within this state, valid for a term of one year, five years, or the permit holder's lifetime, as indicated within the approved application.

"b. If the sheriff is unable to produce a hard copy secure permit card at the time of approval, the sheriff shall issue the applicant a temporary paper permit, valid for 30 days following the date of issuance. The sheriff shall produce and mail to the applicant a hard copy secure permit card within 15 days of issuing the temporary paper permit.

"(f) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

"a. The fee for a concealed carry permit for a term

of one year or five years shall be the same as currently

provided by local law for that county, and the resulting funds

shall be distributed as currently provided by local law.

"b. If there is no local law setting the fee for a one-year permit, the fee shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25), and the funds shall be distributed to the sheriff. If there is no local law setting the fee for a five-year permit, the fee shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125), and the funds shall be distributed to the sheriff.

"c. A sheriff shall charge no fee for issuing or renewing a permit to a service member, a retired or honorably discharged military veteran, a law enforcement officer as defined by Section 36-30-20, or an honorably retired law enforcement officer eligible for a card under Section 36-21-9.

"(2)a. The fee for a lifetime concealed carry permit shall be three hundred dollars (\$300). If an individual applies for a lifetime carry permit within one year after the expiration date of an otherwise valid pistol permit possessed by that individual, or the expiration of any extended renewal period offered by the sheriff, whichever is later, the fee for the lifetime carry permit shall be reduced by an amount equal to the fee paid for the expired permit at the time that expired permit was issued.

"b. Notwithstanding paragraph a., the fee for a lifetime concealed carry permit shall be one hundred fifty

dollars (\$150) if the applicant is 60 years of age or older at the time of application.

"c. A sheriff shall charge no fee for issuing or renewing a lifetime carry permit to a service member, a retired or honorably discharged military veteran, a law enforcement officer as defined by Section 36-30-20, or an honorably retired law enforcement officer eligible for a card under Section 36-21-9.

"(3)a. Eighty percent of the fees for a lifetime carry permit shall be distributed to the sheriff of the county of residence of the applicant, to be used for the administration of the concealed carry permit application process and other law enforcement purposes. The remaining 20 percent shall be distributed to the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, to be used for the administration of the state firearms prohibited person database and for other law enforcement purposes.

"b. Notwithstanding paragraph a., beginning October 1, 2024, the agency may use these funds only for the administration of the state firearms prohibited person database.

- "(4) Each sheriff shall ensure that all fees set forth within this section are properly distributed pursuant to this section on a quarterly basis.
- "(5) Each sheriff shall prepare a report on the number of permits issued and renewed within the county, and shall include a detailed accounting of fees and their

distribution. A sheriff, upon request, shall provide a copy of this report to the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency or the Legislative Services Agency.

- "(g)(1) A permittee who changes his or her permanent address shall report that change of address to the sheriff of the county of his or her new residence within 30 days. Failure by an individual with a valid concealed carry permit or lifetime carry permit to report the change of address as directed by this subdivision shall result in the permit being subject to revocation.
- "(2) A permittee who loses the physical permit or who has his or her physical permit stolen shall report that lost or stolen permit to the sheriff of the county of his or her residence within 30 days.
- "(3) If a permittee changes his or her permanent address, loses his or her concealed carry permit, has his or her concealed carry permit stolen, or desires to replace a damaged concealed carry permit, and requests a new physical permit prior to the expiration date of the concealed carry permit, upon receipt of request and a fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25), the sheriff of the county of residence shall issue a permit in the same manner as provided in subdivision (e)(2).
- "(h) At least once every five years from the date of issuance, each sheriff shall conduct a background check on each individual with a lifetime carry permit issued within his or her county in the same manner as provided in subsection

(b), to ensure that the individual has not been convicted of any crime which would prohibit that individual from purchasing or possessing a pistol or firearm under state or federal law and that the individual has otherwise remained eligible for a permit based upon the factors provided in subsection (c).

"(i)(1)a. At any point after an individual is issued a concealed carry permit or lifetime carry permit, and so long as the permit is valid, if the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, a law enforcement officer, or a court becomes aware that the individual has become prohibited from possessing a pistol or firearm under state or federal law, or otherwise concludes that the individual should not possess a permit based on the factors provided for issuance under subsection (c), the agency, officer, or court shall immediately notify the sheriff of the county of residence of the individual. The agency, officer, or court shall furnish relevant evidence along with the notice.

"b. If the sheriff of the county of residence of a permittee becomes aware that a permittee is prohibited from purchasing or possessing a pistol or firearm under federal or state law, or otherwise concludes that the permittee should not possess a concealed carry or lifetime carry permit based on the factors provided for issuance under subsection (c), the sheriff shall revoke the permit.

"c. Immediately upon revocation of a permit, the sheriff shall send notice of that revocation to the individual whose permit was revoked. The notice delivered to the

- 1 individual shall be in written form, but an additional copy
- 2 may also be delivered in an electronic form. The notice shall
- 3 include all of the following:
- 4 "1. The name of the individual whose permit has been
- 5 revoked.
- 6 "2. The specific reason for revocation of the
- 7 permit, including citation to relevant law.
- 8 "3. The date of conviction or other event on which
- 9 the revocation is based, if applicable.
- 10 "4. Information on how the individual may appeal the
- 11 revocation.
- "(2) If the revocation was due to the permittee
- being prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal or
- 14 state law, the sheriff shall send notice to the Alabama State
- 15 Law Enforcement Agency, in a form prescribed by the
- 16 commission, for entry into the state firearms prohibited
- 17 person database. Upon receipt of a notice of revocation, the
- 18 Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency shall update the state
- firearms prohibited person database to reflect that revocation
- 20 and shall also enter a "Firearms Prohibited Person" notice
- into the state firearms prohibited person database in the same
- 22 manner as provided under subdivision (d) (5).
- "(3) Upon revocation of a permit, the sheriff of the
- county of residence of the permittee or any other law
- 25 enforcement officer with a reasonable opportunity shall make
- reasonable efforts to confiscate the permit card.

"(j) (1) An individual who has been denied a permit under subsection (d), an individual whose permit has been revoked under subsections subsection (g) or (i), or any individual who is listed on the state firearms prohibited person database may appeal the denial, revocation, or database entry to the district court of the county where the individual resides. During the court's review of the decision, the sheriff of the county of residence of the individual shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that possession of a pistol or firearm by the individual would be in violation of state or federal law or that the individual otherwise should not possess a permit based on the factors provided for issuance under subsection (c).

- "(2) A court hearing an appeal under this subsection shall issue a written determination within 30 days providing the reasoning for the determination, as well as any facts or evidence upon which the determination was based. The court shall deliver written copies of this determination to the individual, the sheriff of the county of residence of the individual, and the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency.
- "(3) A court hearing an appeal under this subsection may waive court costs for the appeal if the court concludes that the appellant demonstrated a reasonable belief that he or she should not be listed on the firearms prohibited person database or that the denial or revocation was improper.
- "(4)a. Within three days of receiving a notice of a court determination that the revocation or denial of a permit

was improper, the sheriff shall issue or reissue a physical permit to the applicant in the same manner as provided in subdivision (e)(2).

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

"b. Within three days of receiving a notice of a court determination that the listing of an individual on the database was improper, the sheriff shall ensure that the results of the appeal are sent to the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency for entry in the state firearms prohibited person database.

"(k) The name, address, signature, photograph, and any other personally identifying information collected from an applicant or permittee under this section shall be kept confidential, shall be exempt from disclosure under Section 36-12-40, and may only be used for law enforcement purposes except when a current permittee is charged in any state with a felony involving the use of a pistol. All other information on permits under this section, including information concerning the annual number of applicants, number of permits issued, number of permits denied or revoked, revenue from issuance of permits, and any other fiscal or statistical data otherwise, shall remain public writings subject to public disclosure. Except as provided above, the sheriff of a county and the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency shall redact the name, address, signature, photograph, and any other personally identifying information of a permit holder before releasing a copy of a permit for a non-law enforcement purpose. The sheriff or the agency may charge one dollar (\$1) per copy of

any redacted permit record requested other than when requested for law enforcement purposes. To knowingly publish or release to the public in any form any information or records related to the licensing process, or the current validity of any permit, except as authorized in this subsection or in response to a court order or subpoena, is a violation of Act 2021-246 subject to misuse penalties established by rule of the commission.

- "(1) A concealed carry permit issued under this section shall be valid for the carrying of a pistol in a motor vehicle or concealed on the permittee's person throughout the state, unless prohibited by this section.
- "(m) This section shall not be construed to limit or place any conditions upon an individual's right to carry a pistol that is not in a motor vehicle or not concealed.
- "(n) (1) If a permittee establishes residence in another state, his or her permit shall expire upon the establishment of residence in the other state.
- "(2)a. Notwithstanding subdivision (1), if a service member possesses a lifetime concealed carry permit and establishes residence in another state, the permit shall expire upon the establishment of residence in the other state.
- "b. Notwithstanding paragraph a., if the service member's establishment of residence in the other state was a result of relocation related to the military service of that service member, and that service member thereafter re-establishes residence in Alabama, the sheriff of the county

of residence, upon request of the service member, shall reinstate the lifetime concealed carry permit of that service member.

- "(o) Any individual who knowingly or intentionally makes a false statement while applying for a permit or appealing the denial or revocation or database listing under this section shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.
- "(p) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a sheriff, the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, or a court to disregard any federal law or regulation pertaining to the purchase or possession of a pistol or firearm."

Section 4. The issuance of a permit to carry a pistol pursuant to Section 13A-11-75, Code of Alabama 1975, or the recognition of nonresident licenses pursuant to Section 13A-11-85, Code of Alabama 1975, does not impose a general prohibition on the carrying of a pistol without a permit.

Section 5. Section 9-11-304, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to carrying a pistol on any wildlife management area, Section 13A-11-52, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to carrying a pistol on private property, Section 13A-11-73, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to possession of an unloaded pistol in motor vehicle, and 13A-11-74, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to exceptions to requirement of having a license to carry a pistol in vehicle or concealed on a person, are repealed.

Section 6. Although this bill would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further

requirements and application under Amendment 621, as amended 1 by Amendment 890, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the 2 3 Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, because the bill defines a new crime or amends the 4 definition of an existing crime. 5 Section 7. This act shall become effective on the 6 7 first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law. 8