

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-142

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH,  
4 LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS CONDUCT A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE  
5 CURRENT CONCEALED HANDGUN LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF  
6 THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD OR A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE UNITED  
7 STATES ARMED FORCES AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THE  
8 FEASIBILITY OF ELIMINATING THE STATE'S LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR  
9 THESE MILITARY PERSONNEL.

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12 WHEREAS, military personnel have recently been targeted victims of gun  
13 violence throughout the country, and the safety of military personnel is  
14 important to the State of Arkansas; and

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16 WHEREAS, Arkansas Code § 5-73-320 requires that members of the National  
17 Guard or a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces and active  
18 duty military personnel comply with handgun licensing procedures, which can  
19 take up to four (4) months to complete, in order to carry a concealed weapon  
20 in the State of Arkansas; and

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22 WHEREAS, Arkansas Code § 5-73-320(2)(D) currently requires that  
23 military personnel submit a live-fire qualification issued or granted by a  
24 branch of the United States Armed Forces or, in lieu of a live-fire  
25 qualification, a letter dated and personally signed by a commanding officer  
26 or his or her designee stating that the applicant:

27 (i) Is a current member of the National Guard or a reserve  
28 component of the armed forces of the United States or an active duty member  
29 of the armed forces of the United States.

30 (ii) Is of good character and sound judgment; and

31 (iii) Has met the military qualification requirements for  
32 issuance and operation of a handgun within one (1) year of the application  
33 date; and

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35 WHEREAS, Arkansas Code § 5-73-304 exempts certain law enforcement  
36 officers from licensing requirements; similarly, military personnel that

1 comply with Arkansas Code § 5-73-320(2)(D), or complete mandatory annual or  
2 biennial military weapons qualification training, should be exempt from state  
3 licensing requirements.

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5 NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH,  
7 LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
8 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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10 THAT the House Committee On Aging, Children And Youth, Legislative And  
11 Military Affairs conduct a study to evaluate the current concealed handgun  
12 licensing requirements for members of the Arkansas National Guard or a  
13 reserve component of the United States Armed Forces and active duty military  
14 personnel and the feasibility of eliminating the state's licensing  
15 requirements for military personnel.

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17 Respectfully submitted,

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21 Representative Bob Johnson  
22 District 42

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26 Representative Bob Ballinger  
27 District 97

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31 Senator Jane English  
32 District 34

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34 By: DTP/DTP  
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