

HB 1339

Rep. Ben Koppelman- Testimony

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank You for the opportunity to introduce HB1339 to you today.

This bill deals with Constitutional Carry.

Constitutional Carry, sometimes referred to as permit-less carry, is the law that permits residents to carry concealed without a concealed weapons license as long as they are not precluded from possessing a firearm or dangerous weapon under law. Currently, in order to exercise your right to Constitutional Carry right in North Dakota, you need to be a North Dakota resident for 30 days and have a valid state issued ID.

Twenty- Five states have similar laws where law-abiding citizens are allowed to carry concealed without a government-issued permit. However, we are the only state that I am aware of that requires an individual to be a resident of that state to enjoy that right. Wyoming had a similar residency provision that was repealed a couple years ago.

When Constitutional Carry was passed in North Dakota a few sessions ago, the premise was that it respected and sustained the United States Constitutional right to keep and bear arms that is enshrined in the Second Amendment. I subscribe to that belief and believe that United States citizens should enjoy all their constitutional rights regardless of the state that they happen to be in at the time. Half the states in the union agree with that sentiment as it applies to Constitutional Carry. In those Twenty-Four other states, a North Dakota resident may carry concealed simply by possessing a valid government issued ID. Currently, residents of those other states are not afforded that right here in North Dakota.

Although HB1339 is a 14-page bill, it is really a relatively simple concept. It would allow all United States citizens who are legally able to possess a firearm to carry concealed in North Dakota simply by possessing a valid driver's license, or other ID issued by the state or territory of their residence.