



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF PENDER COUNTY

Alan W. Cutler, Sheriff

From: Sheriff Alan W. Cutler, Pender County Sheriff's Office

Effective immediately, pistol purchase permits will no longer be issued by any sheriff in North Carolina. The Pender County Sheriff's Office has stopped processing pistol purchase permit applications including pending applications.

All state laws regarding the issuance of pistol purchase permits by sheriffs in North Carolina were repealed on Wednesday morning, March 29, 2023, following a vote by the General Assembly to override Governor Roy Cooper's veto of Senate Bill 41, Guarantee 2nd Amendment Freedom and Protections.

This means any person who wants to purchase or transfer a handgun in North Carolina no longer has to apply to the sheriff for a pistol purchase permit. However, any person who wants to purchase a handgun through a firearms dealer will still undergo the background check required under current law and either be sold the handgun or denied sale if the background check indicates the person is disqualified from possessing a firearm.

Criminal penalties still apply for anyone that knowingly transfers a handgun to a person who may not lawfully possess the firearm (such as a convicted felon). Therefore, it is important for citizens to remember that anyone wishing to obtain or transfer any firearm, including a handgun, must still comply with federal and State laws governing who may lawfully possess a firearm.

It is important to understand that North Carolina concealed handgun laws have **NOT** changed. Any person residing in Pender County wishing to carry a concealed handgun in North Carolina must still apply for and be issued a concealed handgun permit by the sheriff.

Does the Sheriff Refund the \$5.00 Fee for Pistol Purchase Permits Being Processed When the Law Was Repealed? Answer: No.

Under North Carolina law, the sheriff does not have the statutory authority to refund the \$5.00 application fee. G.S. 14-404(e) requires the submission of a \$5.00 fee at the time of application and the law does not allow this fee to be refunded once the application has been submitted for processing.

Does the Sheriff Issue Pistol Purchase Permits For Any Applications That Were Pending When The Law Was Repealed? Answer: No.

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