

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

H.B. 49
Feb 2, 2023
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30029-ML-41

Short Title: Protect Religious Meeting Places.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative McNeely.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENACT THE RELIGIOUS ASSEMBLY SECURITY AND PROTECTION ACT
3 OF 2023 AND TO AUTHORIZE CONCEALED CARRY FOR CERTAIN LAW
4 ENFORCEMENT FACILITY EMPLOYEES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as "The Religious Assembly Security and
7 Protection Act of 2023."

8 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 14-269.2(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

9 "(1c) School operating hours. – Any time when any of the following occur:

10 a. The premises are being used for curricular or extracurricular activities.

11 b. The premises are being used for educational, instructional, or
12 school-sponsored activities.

13 c. The premises are being used for programs for minors by entities not
14 affiliated with the religious institution."

15 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 14-269.2 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

16 "(k1) For the purposes of this subsection, property owned by a local board of education or
17 county commission shall not be construed as a building that is a place of religious worship as
18 defined in G.S. 14-54.1. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a person who has a
19 concealed handgun permit that is valid under Article 54B of this Chapter, or who is exempt from
20 obtaining a permit pursuant to that Article, if all of the following conditions apply:

21 (1) The person possesses and carries a handgun on educational property other than
22 an institution of higher education as defined by G.S. 116-143.1 or a nonpublic,
23 postsecondary educational institution.

24 (2) The educational property is the location of both a school and a building that is
25 a place of religious worship as defined in G.S. 14-54.1.

26 (3) The weapon is a handgun.

27 (4) The handgun is only possessed and carried on educational property outside of
28 the school operating hours.

29 (5) The person or persons in legal possession or control of the premises have not
30 posted a conspicuous notice prohibiting the carrying of a concealed handgun
31 on the premises in accordance with G.S. 14-415.11(c)."

32 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 14-415.11(c) reads as rewritten:

33 "(c) Except as provided in G.S. 14-415.27, a permit does not authorize a person to carry
34 a concealed handgun in any of the following:

35 (1) Areas prohibited by G.S. 14-269.2, 14-269.3, and 14-277.2, except as allowed
36 under G.S. 14-269.2(k1).



1 (1a) Areas prohibited by G.S. 14-269.3 and G.S. 14-277.2.

2 "

3 **SECTION 5.(a)** G.S. 14-415.27 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 14-415.27. Expanded permit scope for certain persons.**

5 Notwithstanding G.S. 14-415.11(c), any of the following persons who has a concealed
6 handgun permit issued pursuant to this Article or that is considered valid under G.S. 14-415.24
7 is not subject to the area prohibitions set out in G.S. 14-415.11(c) and may carry a concealed
8 handgun in the areas listed in G.S. 14-415.11(c) unless otherwise prohibited by federal law:

9 ...

10 (10) For only a law enforcement facility covered under G.S. 14-415.11(c)(5), a
11 person employed by a law enforcement agency who (i) is not a law
12 enforcement officer sworn and certified pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 17C
13 or 17E of the General Statutes, (ii) has been designated in writing by the head
14 of the law enforcement agency in charge of the facility, (iii) has in the person's
15 possession written proof of the designation, and (iv) has not had the
16 designation rescinded by the head of the law enforcement agency in charge of
17 the facility. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as prohibiting the
18 head of the law enforcement agency in charge of a facility from rescinding
19 any written designation described in this subdivision."

20 **SECTION 5.(b)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2023, and applies to offenses
21 committed on or after that date.

22 **SECTION 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act become effective December 1, 2023.
23 Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.