



## **Kentucky House Bill 36: Concealed Guns in Public with No Permit and No Training**

**Bottom Line:** House Bill 36 would dismantle Kentucky's concealed carry permitting system—making it easy for violent criminals, drug and alcohol abusers, and people with no safety training to carry hidden, loaded guns throughout the state. This bill would eliminate the background check now required by the permitting process, rendering the permit system toothless and making it nearly impossible for law enforcement to verify whether a person carrying a gun in public is a criminal.

### **❑ HB 36 would dismantle Kentucky's concealed carry permitting system.**

- In the vast majority of states, including Kentucky, a person must acquire a permit in order to carry a concealed handgun in public.
- These permits ensure that certain core public safety standards are preserved when people are carrying loaded, concealed guns in our communities. Since its inception in 1996, Kentucky's permit system has blocked more than 10,000 felons, domestic abusers, and others with dangerous histories from obtaining concealed carry permits.<sup>1</sup>
- HB 36 would make Kentucky one of a very few states to abandon these core public safety standards, making it easy for people to carry loaded, concealed guns in public with no criminal record check, no safety training, and no oversight by local law enforcement.

### **❑ This bill would do away with important safeguards the permitting system provides.**

- **No background check:** Kentucky law currently requires the State Police to run state and federal background checks on everyone who applies for a concealed carry permit to ensure that they're not legally prohibited from possessing or carrying guns.<sup>2</sup> By eliminating the permit requirement, HB 36 would make it easier for convicted felons, the dangerously mentally ill, and other people who could not pass a background check to carry hidden loaded guns in public.
- **No firearms safety training:** To qualify for a concealed carry permit in Kentucky, an applicant must demonstrate that they have completed an approved safety training course. Approved courses must teach the safe use and handling of guns, when guns can justifiably be used, and the applicant must demonstrate an ability to shoot accurately during live fire training.<sup>3</sup> If this bill becomes law, people would no longer have to prove they've completed safety training before carrying hidden, loaded guns throughout Kentucky.

### **❑ This bill would create an honor system, dramatically lowering the bar for who can carry concealed guns in Kentucky.**

- **No way to enforce permit prohibitions:** Under current Kentucky law, people with dangerous histories—including people convicted of Making Terroristic Threats and Assault in the Fourth Degree and people who abuse drugs or alcohol—are generally prohibited from obtaining concealed carry permits. The permit process gives law enforcement an opportunity to identify these dangerous people and deny them permits. This bill would create an honor system for carrying concealed guns in public, removing this screening process and making it nearly impossible for officers to verify whether a person carrying a concealed gun in public is prohibited from doing so.



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<sup>1</sup> See Kentucky Carrying Concealed Deadly Weapon Annual Report 2016, available at: <http://bit.ly/2FJEHwy>

<sup>2</sup> See KRS §237.110(3).

<sup>3</sup> See KRS §237.110(4)(i), (j).