

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
93rd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2021

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1663

By: Representative Dotson

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO TEMPORARILY EXTEND THE VALIDITY OF AN EXPIRED LICENSE TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN DURING THE CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO TEMPORARILY EXTEND THE VALIDITY OF AN EXPIRED LICENSE TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary legislation.

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect high-risk persons from potential coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) exposure by granting persons with a license to carry a concealed handgun a grace period for license renewals that would require in-person activities to complete the renewal process.

(b) A person who possesses or possessed a valid license to carry a concealed handgun issued by this state that expired on or after March 17, 2020, and who is or was considered to be in a high-risk category as determined by the Department of Health as it pertains to coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) exposure may apply to the Division of Arkansas State Police for:

(1) An automatic reinstatement of his or her license to carry a concealed handgun if the person's license to carry a concealed handgun has



expired; or

(2) An extension of time during which the license to carry a concealed handgun shall remain valid without a renewal.

(c) A person who makes a request under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall have his or her license to carry a concealed handgun renewed and considered valid for a period of up to eighteen (18) months as determined by the Director of the Division of Arkansas State Police.

(d) A person who makes a request under subdivision (b)(2) of this act shall be granted a period of up to eighteen (18) months by the director to complete the in-person requirements of a license renewal.

(e) During the time periods described under subsections (c) and (d) of this section, a license to carry a concealed handgun shall remain valid unless it is otherwise suspended or revoked by law.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that certain persons are at a higher risk of coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) exposure or sickness due to the person's age, health conditions, or employment; that requiring a high risk person to attend to certain aspects of concealed handgun licensing renewal in person is not safe for either the licensee or any other person the licensee may come into contact with; and that this act is immediately necessary because a license to carry a concealed handgun provides safety and security to a licensee and requiring a licensee to renew in person ignores public health recommendations to avoid public interactions when possible. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.