

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5208

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide concealed carry privileges to qualified special operators.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3, 2026

Mr. SHEEHY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide concealed carry privileges to qualified special operators.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Special Operations
5 Forces Concealed Carry Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Highly trained special operations personnel
9 who achieved Expert level military marksmanship

1 qualifications have demonstrated proficiency with
 2 firearms and a commitment to public service.

3 (2) Their service should be recognized without
 4 undermining existing safeguards on firearm posses-
 5 sion in sensitive places.

6 **SEC. 3. QUALIFIED SPECIAL OPERATOR AUTHORITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 926C of title 18, United
 8 States Code, is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) by inserting “or a qualified special op-
 11 erator” after “qualified retired law enforcement
 12 officer”; and

13 (B) by inserting “or, in the case of such a
 14 qualified special operator, the identification re-
 15 quired by subsection (g)” after “subsection
 16 (d)”.

17 (b) SPECIAL RULES FOR QUALIFIED SPECIAL OPER-
 18 ATORS; DEFINITIONS.—Section 926C of title 18, United
 19 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 20 lowing:

21 “(g) SPECIAL RULES FOR QUALIFIED SPECIAL OP-
 22 ERATORS.—

23 “(1) TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION REQUIRE-
 24 MENT.—An individual authorized to carry under this
 25 section as a qualified special operator shall, at the

1 expense of the individual, meet the active duty
 2 standards for qualification in firearms training, as
 3 determined by the State in which the individual re-
 4 sides, not less recently than 1 year before the date
 5 the individual is carrying the concealed firearm.

6 “(2) CONCEALED CARRY USE-OF-FORCE TRAIN-
 7 ING.—As a prerequisite to carrying under this sec-
 8 tion, a qualified special operator shall complete a
 9 Concealed Carry Use of Force in Society training
 10 course certified by the Attorney General covering ci-
 11 vilian legal duties, standards of reasonable belief,
 12 and de-escalation techniques relevant to domestic
 13 concealed carry.

14 “(3) CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority under
 16 this section shall continue only while the indi-
 17 vidual—

18 “(i) maintains an honorable discharge
 19 status, as applicable;

20 “(ii) maintains status as a qualified
 21 special operator;

22 “(iii) is not under the influence of al-
 23 cohol or another intoxicating or hallu-
 24 cinatory drug or substance;

1 “(iv) maintains eligibility under Fed-
2 eral law to possess a firearm; and

3 “(v) satisfies the requirements of
4 paragraphs (1) and (2).

5 “(B) IMMEDIATE TERMINATION.—The au-
6 thority under this section shall terminate imme-
7 diately if the individual fails to meet the criteria
8 under subparagraph (A).

9 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
10 in this subsection exempts a qualified special
11 operator from any Federal firearm restriction.

12 “(4) IDENTIFICATION FOR QUALIFIED VET-
13 ERANS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be authorized to
15 carry a concealed firearm under this section, a
16 qualified special operator shall carry proof of
17 identity and qualification. Acceptable forms of
18 identification include the following:

19 “(i) A photographic identification
20 issued by the Department of Defense or
21 the Department of Veterans Affairs that—

22 “(I) identifies the individual as a
23 qualified special operator; and

24 “(II) confirms the individual’s
25 status as such.

1 “(ii) A valid government issued photo-
2 graphic identification and official docu-
3 mentation of service confirming the indi-
4 vidual’s honorable discharge and status as
5 a qualified special operator.

6 “(B) LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUEST.—An
7 individual authorized to carry as a qualified
8 special operator under this section shall present
9 the identification described in this subsection
10 upon request by law enforcement.

11 “(h) QUALIFIED SPECIAL OPERATOR.—For purposes
12 of this section, the term ‘qualified special operator’ means
13 a former member of the United States Armed Forces who
14 attended special operations force assessment, was
15 screened, evaluated and selected for qualification training,
16 and was awarded and held a special warfare or special
17 operations military occupational specialty or skill desig-
18 nator as defined by United States Special Operations
19 Command.

20 “(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING NAVY
21 SPECIAL WARFARE SERVICE.—For purposes of records or
22 documentation describing service in Navy special oper-
23 ations roles, service in the United States Navy Special
24 Warfare Command includes—

1 “(1) a commissioned or warrant officer quali-
 2 fied in special warfare;

3 “(2) an enlisted member who served as a spe-
 4 cial warfare operator;

5 “(3) a Special Warfare Combatant Craft Crew-
 6 man Warrant Officer; and

7 “(4) an enlisted member who served as a Spe-
 8 cial Warfare Combatant Craft Enlisted Sailor.”.

9 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

10 (1) SECTION HEADING.—Section 926C of title
 11 18, United States Code, is amended, in the section
 12 heading by inserting “and qualified special opera-
 13 tors” after “officers”.

14 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
 15 for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is
 16 amended by striking the item relating to section
 17 926C and inserting the following:

“926C. Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement offi-
 cers and qualified special operators.”.

18 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION AND AUTHORITY.**

19 (a) ISSUANCE OF IDENTIFICATION TO VETERANS.—

20 (1) IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM.—Beginning not
 21 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
 22 this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary
 23 of Veterans Affairs shall jointly implement a pro-
 24 gram to issue the photographic identification de-

1 scribed in section 926C of title 18, United States
2 Code, to any individual, at the request of the indi-
3 vidual, who meets the criteria of a qualified special
4 operator.

5 (2) VERIFICATION.—The Secretary of Defense
6 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure
7 that the application process for the program imple-
8 mented under paragraph (1) uses the records of
9 each Department to verify honorable discharge and
10 status as a qualified special operator.

11 (b) ACCEPTANCE OF PROOF DOCUMENTS.—

12 (1) ALTERNATE PROOF.—Prior to the expira-
13 tion of the 180-day period described in subsection
14 (a), the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Vet-
15 erans Affairs shall recognize valid service docu-
16 mentation as sufficient proof under section 926C of
17 title 18, United States Code.

18 (2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-
20 eral shall provide guidance to law enforcement agen-
21 cies nationwide to ensure acceptance of the requisite
22 official documentation as proof of authority to carry
23 under Federal law until such time as the photo-
24 graphic identification of the Department of Defense

1 of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as applica-
2 ble, is made available.

3 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense and
4 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs are authorized to pro-
5 mulgate regulations and guidance to carry out this Act,
6 and the amendments made by this Act, including the form
7 and process for issuing photographic identification cards,
8 any application procedures, consistent with section 926C
9 of title 18, United States Code, and communication with
10 Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies regard-
11 ing implementation.

12 **SEC. 5. NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.**

13 (a) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
14 or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed
15 to create any private right of action or legal claim, includ-
16 ing an action or claim against any government agency, of-
17 ficer, or private entity for failure to implement or comply
18 with its terms.

19 (b) EXISTING REMEDIES.—Any remedy for non-
20 compliance or violation of section 926C of title 18, United
21 States Code, shall be limited to the remedies provided
22 under such section or other applicable law, as in effect
23 on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 6. APPLICABILITY.**

2 A qualified special operator may exercise the author-
3 ity to carry a firearm under section 926C of title 18,
4 United States Code, with the valid service documentation
5 described in section 4(b)(1).

6 **SEC. 7. SEVERABILITY.**

7 If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by
8 this Act, or the application of such provision or amend-
9 ment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconsti-
10 tutional, the remainder of this Act, the amendments made
11 by this Act, and the application of the provisions of such
12 to any person or circumstance shall not be affected there-
13 by.

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