

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 707

To prohibit the public carrying of a handgun, with appropriate exceptions for law enforcement officials and others.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 1997

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

A BILL

To prohibit the public carrying of a handgun, with appropriate exceptions for law enforcement officials and others.

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 “Concealed Weapons
5 Prohibition Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds and declares that—

8 (1) crimes committed with handguns threaten
9 the peace and domestic tranquility of the United

1 States and reduce the security and general welfare
2 of the Nation and its people;

3 (2) crimes committed with handguns impose a
4 substantial burden on interstate commerce and lead
5 to a reduction in productivity and profitability for
6 businesses around the Nation whose workers, suppli-
7 ers, and customers are adversely affected by gun vio-
8 lence;

9 (3) the public carrying of handguns increases
10 the level of gun violence by enabling the rapid esca-
11 lation of otherwise minor conflicts into deadly
12 shootings;

13 (4) the public carrying of handguns increases
14 the likelihood that incompetent or careless handgun
15 users will accidentally injure or kill innocent bystand-
16 ers;

17 (5) the public carrying of handguns poses a
18 danger to citizens of the United States who travel
19 across State lines for business or other purposes;
20 and

21 (6) all Americans have a right to be protected
22 from the dangers posed by the carrying of concealed
23 handguns, regardless of their State of residence.

1 **SEC. 3. UNLAWFUL ACT.**

2 Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(y)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall
5 be unlawful for a person to carry a handgun on his or
6 her person in public.

7 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the following:

8 “(A) A person authorized to carry a handgun
9 pursuant to State law who is—

10 “(i) a law enforcement official;

11 “(ii) a retired law enforcement official;

12 “(iii) a duly authorized private security of-
13 ficer;

14 “(iv) a person whose employment involves
15 the transport of substantial amounts of cash or
16 other valuable items; or

17 “(v) any other person that the Attorney
18 General determines should be allowed to carry
19 a handgun because of compelling circumstances
20 warranting an exception, pursuant to regula-
21 tions that the Attorney General may promul-
22 gate.

23 “(B) A person authorized to carry a handgun
24 pursuant to a State law that grants a person an ex-
25 emption to carry a handgun based on an individual-
26 ized determination and a review of credible evidence

1 that the person should be allowed to carry a hand-
2 gun because of compelling circumstances warranting
3 an exemption. A claim of concern about generalized
4 or unspecified risks shall not be sufficient to justify
5 an exemption.

6 “(C) A person authorized to carry a handgun
7 on his or her person under Federal law.”.

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