

**Subject** Firearms in Capitol Area

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## Summary

This bill eliminates the exemption for permit-to-carry holders to possess firearms in Capitol Area buildings.

Under current law, unless you have a permit-to-carry, citizens cannot carry firearms in “public places.” Most violations of this prohibition are gross misdemeanors. More serious penalties apply for violations of this prohibition that occur in sensitive places like schools, courthouses, and Capitol Area buildings.

Just like permit-to-carry holders are exempt from the general prohibition on carrying firearms in “public places” they are also exempt from the specific prohibition on carrying firearms in Capitol Area buildings. This bill would remove that exemption and subject permit-to-carry holders to the same felony penalty that non-permit-to-carry holders would face if they carry a firearm in a Capitol Area building.

Under both current law and the bill, permit-to-carry holders are permitted to possess firearms outside of buildings in the Capitol Area. The bill also allows for permit-to-carry holders to possess firearms in their vehicle and while outside of their vehicle to store a firearm in the vehicle’s trunk. This exception would account for permit-to-carry holders having their firearms in parking ramps within the Capitol Area.

Finally, the bill creates a new exemption to the ban on carrying firearms in Capitol Area buildings for security staff of the House Sergeant-at-Arms who carry firearms pursuant to the federal law that permits retired peace officers to carry firearms in public places.