



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington St., S.W., Suite 1-156
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

Greg S. Griffin
STATE AUDITOR
(404) 656-2174

February 13, 2017

Honorable Jesse Stone
Chairman, Judiciary
325-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
Senate Bill 15 (LC 41 0979S)

Dear Chairman Stone:

This bill would change the eligibility requirement for former law enforcement officers (LEO) to receive a weapons carry license at no charge. Current law states that former LEOs who have served for 10 of the last 12 years immediately preceding retirement may obtain a license without payment. The bill would expand the eligibility to include former LEOs who have served for at least 10 years, left employment as a result of a disability arising in the line of duty, and receive benefits from the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund or a county, municipal, State of Georgia, state authority, or federal retirement system.

We are unable to determine the bill's precise fiscal impact on the state, but it is likely to be marginal over the current exemption. We could not determine the number of additional former LEOs that would qualify under the bill's eligibility requirements; however, the number of exemptions is not expected to significantly increase.

Applications for weapons carry licenses are initially processed at county probate courts, with specific fees being dedicated to county, state, and federal authorities. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) is the only state entity that would be financially impacted by the bill. GBI normally receives \$39.75 per application for fingerprinting services and forwards a fee of \$12 to the Federal Bureau of Investigations for its service. In the last three fiscal years, an average of 800 former LEO exemptions have been granted. This has resulted in revenue loss of approximately \$32,000 annually (which includes \$9,600 in fees GBI still pays to the FBI for those applications). As shown in Exhibit 1, these exemptions represent a small portion of total weapons carry permits processed by GBI.

Exhibit 1. Weapons Carry License Transactions

	Transactions	GBI Fee Revenue
Fiscal Year 2014		
Weapons Carry Permits	150,175	\$4,167,245
Former Law Enforcement Officer Permits	893	\$0
Fiscal Year 2015		
Weapons Carry Permits	118,021	\$3,274,861
Former Law Enforcement Officer Permits	637	\$0
Fiscal Year 2016		
Weapons Carry Permits	177,802	\$4,933,867
Former Law Enforcement Officer Permits	886	\$0

Sincerely,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Teresa A. MacCartney, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/TAM/sj