

SENATE BILL 2611

By Bailey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38 and Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13, relative to firearms.

WHEREAS, the great State of Tennessee and its citizens are served by the Judicial branch of this state which contains many elected, appellate, and Governor-appointed judges; and

WHEREAS, these judges serve under an oath to the Constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Tennessee and must exercise their sworn duties without fear or favor; and

WHEREAS, these judges make consequential decisions that impact our fellow citizens in criminal and civil litigation. These decisions affect people's freedom, finances, property, and families; and

WHEREAS, threats against judiciary and their families are on the rise not only in Tennessee but also across the country and continue to be an increasing danger; and

WHEREAS, currently, judges face restrictions on where they can exercise their right to carry firearms, making them and their families more vulnerable and unsafe; and

WHEREAS, judges entrusted with the faith and confidence of the voting public and the Governor should be entrusted with the responsibility of safely carrying firearms throughout more locations in Tennessee; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a) A current or former chancery, circuit, or appellate court judge, who is an enhanced handgun carry permit holder, pursuant to § 39-17-1351, and has completed

the training required in subsection (b) is authorized to carry a firearm in the same manner and locations that a law enforcement officer may carry a firearm under § 39-17-1350.

(b) In order to carry a firearm pursuant to this section, a judge must successfully complete firearms training in accordance with POST (peace officer standards and training) certification, which must include, at a minimum, forty (40) hours initial training and eight (8) hours annual in-service training in firearms qualification administered by a POST-certified firearms training program.

(c) The administrative office of the courts shall develop a uniform identification system clearly identifying that a judge is qualified under this section to carry a firearm. A judge authorized to carry a firearm under this section shall carry the identification at all times the judge is carrying a firearm.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.