

**SJR**

**14**



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate

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## *SPONSOR STATEMENT* *SJR 14*

*Supporting federal legislation permitting state concealed handgun permittees to carry concealed handguns in other states.*

SJR 14 is a resolution which would put Alaska on the record in support of H. R. 339, a bill currently being considered in the United States House of Representatives. This federal legislation, introduced by Congressman Cliff Stearns (R-Florida), would provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a state may carry certain concealed firearms.

In 1994 the Alaska Legislature joined the growing number of states which allow residents to carry concealed handguns for their personal protection and defense. In 1994 Alaska's citizens also *overwhelmingly* approved an amendment to our State Constitution which affirmed our individual right to keep and bear arms.

The need and desire for personal protection and defense does not end at the borders of the state of a person's residence. Unfortunately there is only limited reciprocity between the states in regard to the legal carry of concealed handguns. H. R. 339 would allow concealed handgun permittees of one state to carry concealed handguns in each of the other states, regardless of whether or not that state has a concealed weapons permit program in place.

Even though one might presume that the 2nd Amendment to the Bill of Rights would apply uniformly in all 50 states, a law abiding citizen faces a labyrinth of often confusing laws and regulations. H. R. 339 would help remedy this situation.

This legislation is supported by the National Rifle Association of America, a grass roots organization which boasts 25,000 Alaskans among its membership.



**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
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February 5, 1997

Senator Rick Halford  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS 3100)  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Halford,

On behalf of the over 25,000 members of the National Rifle Association of America (NRA) who reside in the State of Alaska, I commend your recognition of the importance of H.R. 339, currently pending in the 105th Congress. Let me take this opportunity to put the full support of the NRA membership behind your effort to pass SJR 14 through the Alaska State Legislature so the weight of your legislature can, in turn, be put behind H.R. 339.

H.R. 339 provides that concealed weapon permits issued to law-abiding citizens in one state would be recognized and valid while the holder of the permit is traveling through any other state. Just as valid drivers licenses allow motorists to travel interstate, so should concealed weapon permits allow law-abiding citizens to provide a means for defense of themselves and their families when they travel interstate.

There are currently fifteen states which provide some level of "reciprocity" for the recognition of concealed weapon permits issued by jurisdictions in other states. This patchwork approach to providing reciprocity generates confusion and uncertainty with respect to the varying laws. Additionally, it obviously treats law-abiding citizens from different jurisdictions very inequitably.

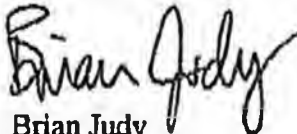
Thirty states currently have laws providing for the issuance of concealed weapon permits on a non-discretionary and non-discriminatory basis. Although concerns have typically been raised when these concealed weapon permit laws were proposed, generally that there would be increased violence and more firearm accidents, these predictions have not come to pass. Empirical evidence from every state which has given law-abiding citizens the legal ability to carry a means of self-protection has proven what you and we already knew: responsible law-abiding firearm owners are not a criminal threat and can be trusted!

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Law-abiding citizens have shown, in Alaska and the other 29 states with fair and equitable right-to-carry laws, that they can handle the responsibility that goes along with carrying a firearm for self-defense. It is time for a national law which recognizes law-abiding citizens' right to bear arms for self-protection.

The NRA, again, offers strong support for SJR 14.

Sincerely,



Brian Judy  
Alaska State Liaison