

Submitter: Ryan Killion
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB348

This bill already makes it illegal for certified law enforcement officers whom work for a municipal or county agency to carry their service weapons outside of their employment. The amendment proposed under Section 13 subsection 6A only exempts any member of a state, federal or tribal agency from being required to obtain a permit to purchase. So, not only can our local law enforcement not carry their service weapons while off duty due to capacity restrictions in this bill, but they too are subject to the same unethical and unconstitutional requirements to pay money to exercise their rights. Further more, federal and tribal agencies already do not have to abide by state law, so that text is irrelevant anyways. But to further ostracize our local law enforcement by requiring them to also purchase a permit to purchase a weapon to be be used while working in their official capacity makes this measure and, by extension, the proposed amendments further egregious. Just in the last year, I have seen the media cover several stories of off-duty law enforcement officials saving lives with their service weapons.

Supporters of this bill will try to argue that the responsibility to purchase/furnish the service weapons to officers falls on the agency itself. However, most municipal agencies are already facing budgetary restrictions and currently the accepted practice is either to provide a "voucher" or "partial reimbursement" to their officers in order to save money and provide better service to their citizens. If this measure is enacted as written, including these proposed amendments, many municipal and even some county-level agencies would face having to shut down and contract with county or state law enforcement for those services purely based on this unconstitutional requirement proposed in this measure and amendment.

Thus, this bill and the proposed amendments are going to further erode law enforcement's ability to do their jobs of keeping the peace an enforcing our constitutional laws making our state even less safe than it already is.