

PRESS RELEASE

GeorgiaCarry.org Announces Signing of HB 89 by Governor Sonny Perdue

Largest reform in Georgia history chips away at bringing Georgia gun laws up to par with others

Atlanta, May 14, 2008: GeorgiaCarry.org (GCO) is pleased to announce the signing of HB 89 by Governor Sonny Perdue. This legislation is the most important change in history for Georgia's gun laws and the law abiding citizens of the state who choose to lawfully carry a firearm. Beginning July 1st, Georgians in possession of a Georgia Firearms License (GFL) will be able to lawfully carry into state parks, restaurants that serve alcohol, and on public transportation, making Georgia the 36th, 38th, and 44th state respectively to allow carry into these areas.

HB 89 was first introduced during the 2007 General Assembly Session by Rep. Tim Bearden (R-68) as the Car Carry Bill which aimed to loosen the restrictions on where law abiding citizens were able to keep a firearm in their vehicle. After passing the House in 2007, the bill in its original form was sent to the Senate where it was amended to add the "parking lot" provision. This amendment was met by fierce opposition from the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and other anti-gun special interest groups. Due to this concern from the opposition, the bill became stalled and did not make it out of the Senate in 2007.

When the session began in 2008, the "parking lot" provision once again became the focal point of the bill, and after reaching a compromise from both sides, the bill was sent to the Senate floor for a vote. During the floor debate, Senator John Douglas added several provisions to the bill which included the provision to allow carry into restaurants serving alcohol, state parks, and on public transportation, as well as provisions to make straw purchases a felony under state law and to improve the timeliness of issuing

GFL's. The bill passed the Senate with the new amendment and was sent back to the house where several other amendments were added. Upon passing the House for a second time with the new amendments, the bill was forced into a conference committee in the Senate and ultimately passed by both chambers on Friday, April 4th – the last day of the session.

GCO President Ed Stone was pleased to learn that Governor Perdue had signed the legislation adding, "By signing this legislation, Governor Perdue has expanded the rights of law abiding Georgian's who lawfully arm themselves to protect themselves and their loved ones. This has been a tough battle in getting the bill to where we are now. The membership of GCO should be proud of their grassroots efforts, and we are grateful to the legislators who helped us make these changes to Georgia's outdated gun laws."

GCO would like to congratulate the Governor, the Senate, and the House for their efforts in preserving the rights of law abiding Georgians!

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GeorgiaCarry.org (GCO) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Georgia's right to keep and bear arms. GCO's mission is carried out through selected litigation, grassroots legislative efforts, and active participation with elected officials at all levels throughout Georgia.