

Topic: House Bill 1410

Get the facts on latest conceal-carry bill

This is in response to Colorado State University Police Chief Donn Hopkins' Soapbox of April 23 concerning House Bill 1410. Research the facts, as I did.

Hopkins: Will allow permit holders to carry a concealed handgun in various places, and universities cannot prohibit this practice. He includes other entities, even hospitals.

Fact: A permit holder can carry on public property; it's public — why not? Private property, and public K-12 schools, are either prohibited or can be by the property owner, as it should be. Universities currently cannot prohibit (there were a number of assaults involving CSU victims in the past year). Elitch's, Pepsi Center, Invesco Field and Poudre Valley Hospital all screen and prohibit weapons. Law-abiding citizens, by definition, will responsibly obey the law and will protect themselves if they choose to exercise the right and privilege. Criminals, by definition, simply don't and won't care about restrictions upon law-abiding citizens.

Hopkins: "Bars municipal and county entities" from the protection of banning guns in state courts and the state Capitol.

Fact: All Colorado courthouses and the Capitol screen and ban weapons, permit or not.

Emergency permits: A beaten wife obtains a temporary restraining order and desires to carry a handgun for protection. Legally,

she needs a permit but cannot acquire one for immediate protection under current standards or those in this bill. The emergency permit is at the discretion of the sheriff. If all criteria (except his noted "demonstrated competence with a handgun") are met, you cannot just walk in and get a permit, and they are not valid in excess of 90 days, which would be time enough for training and obtaining a permit.

Hopkins: Sets a lower standard for obtaining a permit than for purchasing a gun.

Fact: The process requires fingerprinting and records check through the CBI and FBI and certified handgun training, as specified in the bill, within the past five years. Purchasing a firearm only requires your name called in and cleared by the CBI — no fingerprints, no FBI check, no training. Other standards are the same. You cannot have a permit if you cannot legally own a firearm.

Hopkins: Correctly states that it's illegal for any person charged with a violent crime or subject to a restraining order to purchase a firearm. But he adds, "this law would force police" to allow these same persons to



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carry a hidden gun in public.

Fact: They're criminals and don't care. The bill states that alcohol-related offenses, restraining orders, felonies, domestic violence charges, drug convictions and other criteria force a sheriff to deny a permit.

Hopkins: "Applicants are not required to apply for the permit in their county of primary residence," and "Sheriffs are not required to do in-depth background checks with municipal law enforcement."

Fact: It requires, "In addition, the sheriff shall consult with other local law-enforcement agencies, including any municipal police department in the jurisdiction in which the applicant resides."

Hopkins: Reciprocity is dangerous to citizens.

Fact: Colorado will honor the permits of other states, as they will ours, if the requirements are the same — not at a lower standard.

Hopkins: The bill does not state that information can "only" be shared in the course of a criminal investigation.

Fact: It states it "shall" be shared.

Read the bill and evaluate this information with logic, experience and facts — not emotions, innuendos and false information.

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