

Is Concealed Carry For All?

Arizona's governor says a new law allowing U.S. citizens to carry a concealed firearm in the state without a permit restores constitutional rights.

The law, Senate Bill 1108, crafted by Sen. Russell Pearce, R-Mesa, applies to U.S. citizens 21 and older.

The new law goes into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourned, (Approximately, the first of August) It is already legal to openly carry a firearm in Arizona.

Arizona joined Alaska and Vermont in permitting concealed weapons without a permit.

"I believe strongly in the individual rights and responsibilities of a free society, and as governor I have pledged a solemn and important oath to protect and defend the Constitution," Gov. Jan Brewer, a Republican said in a written statement. "I believe this legislation not only protects the Second Amendment rights of Arizona citizens, but restores those rights as well."

Former Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano (the bugged-eyed butch) vetoed a dozen weapons bills, but resigned in January 2009 to become U.S. homeland security secretary. GOP Secretary of State, Brewer, then became governor.

During her first year in office, she signed a bill allowing loaded guns in bars and restaurants and prohibiting property owners from banning guns in parking areas, so long as the firearms are locked in vehicles.

So, there, boys and girls, my state of Arizona has joined with Alaska and Vermont in allowing concealed carry without a permit.

This happened just before Gov. Brewer signed into law our controversial illegal alien law. This has attracted so much national attention that our con-

cealed carry law got overlooked!

However, it has created some debate within Arizona. Most comments are made by those who haven't really thought the matter through, both pro and con.

Before Bill 1108, open carry has been the norm in Arizona for years. This bill eliminates a "gray" area: eg. You are openly carrying a handgun, legally. You feel a cold breeze blowing and throw on a light jacket, without considering it is now covering your gun. You are now illegally carrying.

Until now, Arizona, like several other states, has issued concealed carry permits upon completing a prescribed course of study. The best part of this course was the laws of self-defense and the use of deadly-force in protecting your life.

At the present time, you will still have the option of taking this course and obtaining a permit. Compared to Bill 1108, this permit is accepted by several other states on a reciprocal basis. Not so for those who choose to carry without a permit. This permit, also, allows you to conceal carry into a bar or restaurant — not so for those without the permit.

While it's up to the individual, taking the prescribed course and getting a CC permit has certain advantages. If you choose to go the non-permit route, it is highly-recommended that you avail yourself of a working knowledge of all the laws and common sense concerning using lethal force in self-defense. In the Book Review section of this magazine, we have stressed excellent books that address this issue. We are, also, providing you links to the present Arizona CC training course instructor's manual.

The actual handling of the handgun is taken for granted — it is assumed that you are totally-familiar with the piece you are packing and can draw, present and hit where you aim.

There is one remaining qualification that needs addressing, and that is **YOU!** Are you mentally-prepared to follow through with a potentially horrible situation that results in you remaining vertical rather than horizontal? Are you prepared to look at a previously live human (maybe questionable) lying dead before you — the terminal result of having successfully-defended your own life.

You are sure he isn't going to shoot the gun that fell from his hand — you or someone has called 911 and are waiting for the police to arrive. Safely holster your gun and try to settle your nerves and thoughts. You will be experiencing emotions that, previously, you never knew existed.

Are **YOU** prepared to live through the above scenario — or will you fail to react in the correct ways? — Perhaps losing your life and letting some low-life get away with your belongings, including your gun!

I recommend that everyone who hasn't, obtain a copy of Jeff Cooper's great booklet, "**Principles Of Personal Defense.**" This was reviewed in Issue No. 1 of this magazine.

Read and re-read this booklet until it's almost memorized. If you are not in total agreement with Col. Cooper's tome, think twice before you decide to carry a gun, concealed or otherwise.

Read and re-read the article extracted from the writings of Sheldon Emery on what the Bible says about self-defense, in Issue No 1. If you're not in total agreement, again, think twice before resorting to carrying a gun.

To read and/or download copies of Arizona's CCW Instructors manuals, read the next two articles in this issue.

— Everett Moore