

## Summary of Mississippi Senate Bill 2469 By Sen. Joey Fillingane (R-Sumrall)

*Currently, Mississippi's concealed carry law -- with its blanket prohibitions on carrying in select locations -- creates "defenseless" zones for law-abiding citizens. The goal of this bill is to allow permit holders to lawfully protect themselves in UNSECURED areas of public buildings, and in privately-owned establishments IF the owner or controller of the property has not posted the area off-limits.*

- Allows permit holders to carry in unsecured areas of courthouses, but retains ban on carrying in courtrooms. "Secured areas" are defined as areas to which access is restricted or limited by the use of metal detectors or security personnel conducting individual screening.
- Clarifies that carrying at actual meetings of governing bodies is prohibited. Language in current law could put entire governmental buildings off-limits because city council or county commission meetings are held there, and the ban could apply even when these meetings are not taking place.
- Retains ban on carrying at any school, college or professional athletic event.
- Eliminates statutory prohibition on carrying in portions of establishments licensed to dispense liquor or beer & wine, and allows each individual property owner to choose whether to ban such activity. Owner or controller of the establishment could enforce a ban by posting the area off-limits to all permit holders, but they could also authorize employees or vendors who are licensed to be able to carry on the property.
- Leaves ban in place on carrying at elementary or secondary schools.
- Removes ban on carrying in unsecured areas of junior college, community college or university buildings, but retains ban at athletic events on campus and allows establishments serving alcohol on campus to post their bar area off-limits to permit holders.
- Clarifies that the ban on carrying by permit holders at airports applies to the secure area of the terminal and not the publicly-accessible check-in area.
- Eliminates the statutory prohibition on carrying by permit holders in churches or other places of worship and allows each individual religious institution to choose whether to ban such activity. Controllers of the property

could enforce a ban through posting, but could also authorize church employees who are licensed to be able to carry on the premises.

- Removes ban on carrying at parades or demonstrations for which a permit is required.
- Clarifies that controllers of public or private buildings and locations not mentioned in this subsection of the concealed carry law may still post their areas off-limits to permit holders, but that prohibited areas may not extend to parking facilities (unless an employer has a secure parking facility as described in Section 45-9-55 of the Mississippi Code.)
- Creates an exception for permit holders in unsecure buildings to the current prohibition on carrying firearms on postsecondary educational property.