

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee members, for your support of House Bill 565 which provides and exemption for retired law enforcement officers who obtain the concealed carry card under Federal House Resolution 218, the "Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act" to carry concealed weapons in currently restricted areas.**

Mass shootings in society seem to be on the rise, especially in schools, as we saw this last week on campus in Michigan and the heart wrenching incident in Florida two weeks ago.

Because of events like this there may likely be a push to put more security officers in schools. This bill deal with a whole group of trained professional law enforcement officers who could potentially be used as the need arises.

**Peace Officers** are among the most highly trained individuals in the nation **in the proper & prudent** use of firearms, including shoot/don't-shoot scenarios for public safety.

They undergo psychological examinations for emotional stability and have extensive training in the proper use of firearms along with other lethal and nonlethal weapons.

**The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) (HR 218) is a United States federal law, enacted in 2004 after 9-11**

\*\*\*It allows qualified retired law enforcement officers to **obtain a "RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT CONCEALED WEAPONS LICENCE"**.

This statute allows them to carry a concealed This statute weapon in any jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of state or local laws, with certain exceptions.

Please take a look at the photocopied provided: (see attachment 2)

This is an example of what an Idaho 218 Card for retired law enforcement officers looks like. This card requires annual renewal and annual background checks.

This special Concealed Weapons License is issued by the sheriff of each Idaho county is typically issued to **retired ..qualified:**

- State highway patrol
- U.S. marshals-FBI Agents - DEA Agents
- Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and firearm Agents

- Border Patrol & ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement) Agents
- And retired municipal & county law enforcement officers.

What does qualified mean?

**To be qualified for this card a retired law enforcement officer" must meet the following criteria:**

- Be **retired and in good standing** from a government agency where they worked for a **minimum of 10 years** as a law enforcement officer. Our state statute requires 15 years of service. (~~HR218 federal in 2013 reduced this to 10 years, Idaho law still says 10~~)
- Their duties must have included **engagement or supervision** of the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or the incarceration of any person for any violation of law, **with the statutory powers of arrest or apprehension** under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
- The officer **also** cannot be under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance; and cannot be prohibited by Federal law from possessing a firearm."

**If** a retired officer meets these criteria and many others they must also **annually pass** "standards for training and qualification at the range, and an **annual background check** through the national **NCIS center**.

**Also**, the sheriff may require the applicant to complete additional training.

So as you can see, the special Idaho retired law enforcement concealed weapons license (or 218 card) is very different than Idaho's regular concealed carry or enhanced carry card.

**Once this card is issued, to be legal, the retired law enforcement officer must:**

Carry at all times, both their agency issued law enforcement card and the 218 card.

## Retired law enforcement officers with the 218 card and their requirements are defined under **IC 18-3302H**

OK...that is the background..So what does House bill 565 do????

**Idaho code 18-3309** already allows retired peace officers with the 218 card (designated in 18-3302H) to carry concealed firearms in **all areas** of public colleges and universities **except dormitories, resident halls or buildings of public entertainment with seating of over 1000.**

This bill allows the Retired LEO with the 218 card to carry concealed in these additional areas.

~~Retired law enforcement officers with the 218 card are removed from the list of those who are not allowed to carry in dorms or entertainment buildings on line 24 by removing 18-3302H folks (like other exempted individual.) This allows for a qualified individual to not have to jump through hoops during business hours only to do what they have been trained to do.~~

## Then we move to Idaho Code 18-3302D Possessing Weapons or Firearms on School Property.

On page 3 of the bill there are a couple of technical corrections, and then the change on line 41, adds the **same exemption** for qualified retired law enforcement officers on k-12 school property.

So this means **if you are a 218 card carrier**, you can attend your child or grandchild's school event or pick them up for school legally with your concealed weapon.

That is the extent of this proposed law allows.

Idaho law enforcement agencies are already overburdened with awesome responsibilities. Active Law enforcement officers can save lives, and qualified retired law enforcement officers can do the same. **We never know** when one of these individuals will be the first line of defense to stop a tragic incident when evil rear its ugly head

Both of these changes allow an extra level of security and protection for citizens at colleges and schools at no extra cost, when active law enforcement officers may not be immediately available.

This bill was brought by has been worked on by members of the Fraternal Order of police and has been endorsed by the Idaho Sheriffs Association, Fraternal Order of Police and the Idaho Chief's of Police are in full support!

I stand for questions.