



**New licenses.** As the number in the first dot point above indicates, there will be hundreds of thousands of military service personnel eligible for the bill's fee waiver. The number of those personnel that will apply for a permit simply because of the fee waiver is uncertain. Presumably some will, which means that, subsequent to its enactment, this fee waiver provision may lead to a short-term increase in the number of new applicants for a concealed handgun license.

**Renewal licenses.** The bill may also affect license renewal activity, as military service personnel with an active license will not have to pay the required fee when they renew that license. The number of military service personnel (active duty and veterans) with active licenses in Ohio is uncertain.

### **Concealed handgun license fee**

Under current law, the fee for a concealed carry license is as follows: new (\$67/\$91) and renewal (\$50/\$74).<sup>1</sup> A license is valid for five years. The fees are collected by the county sheriff as part of their duties and responsibilities to administer and enforce the state's Concealed Handgun Law. The sheriff retains a portion of the fee (\$27 of a new license and \$15 of the renewal license) for deposit into the Sheriff's Concealed Handgun License Issuance Expense Fund, which is used solely to pay for related administrative and enforcement costs. The remainder is forwarded for deposit into the state treasury to the credit of the General Reimbursement Fund (Fund 1060), which the Attorney General uses, in part, to fund the cost of background checks performed by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), as well as any checks requested from the FBI.

As noted, the bill does not exempt active-duty military personnel and veterans from the requirement that a person apply for a concealed handgun license. The bill only exempts those individuals from paying the license or renewal fees. All of the work required to issue those licenses and renewals will still occur.

According to the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, all of the fee revenue typically collected for concealed handgun licenses and renewals is expended to pay for administrative personnel and BCI background checks. As the bill does not lessen the workload but does create the potential for lost fee revenue, county sheriffs generally may have to find other funds to cover related operating expenses. For certain counties, the amount of replacement revenue needed could easily exceed \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants residing in Ohio for five years or more pay a fee of \$67 for a new license or \$50 for a renewal license. Applicants residing in Ohio for less than five years pay an additional \$24 for a new or renewal license for the cost of the required FBI background check (R.C. 2923.125).