

HOUSE BILL 2519 “CAMPUS CARRY” FAQs

Q. What is WVU’s position on this bill?

A. We have always maintained that, in matters relating to its campuses across the system, the Board of Governors is in the best position to make decisions. The University has consistently indicated that it prefers current law and local control and does not support efforts like House Bill 2519 that seek to limit the discretion of our Board.

However, the University understands there is significant support in the Legislature for House Bill 2519, and that it is likely to move through the House and Senate. Though unwilling to stop the campus carry legislation, advocates for the bill have been willing to provide a significant number of exemptions and authority that will provide the University with the means to protect its system’s most sensitive areas where deadly weapons have no place.

The University appreciates the Legislative leadership for its willingness to understand and work with the University on this legislation. The exemptions now being contemplated will provide vital protections needed to maintain a safe and welcoming institution for our faculty, staff, students, parents and friends of the University.

Given the likelihood this legislation will move forward with the contemplated exemptions, West Virginia University is focused on preserving the exemptions that are in the Committee Substitute for House Bill 2519, as it is considered by the Legislature.

Q. What is current law about guns on campus?

A. Under current law, if an unauthorized individual brings a firearm onto WVU property, the University has the authority to ask them to leave. If the individual refuses to leave, they are guilty of criminal trespass.

Q. Are any guns currently permitted on campus?

A. Yes. In accordance with [WVU-PD-3 Deadly Weapons/Destructive Devices Policy](#), the following individuals are authorized to carry firearms on campus with the knowledge and control of University Police:

- ✓ Law enforcement officers or law enforcement officials
- ✓ West Virginia Department of Corrections employees
- ✓ Members of the armed forces of the United States or the militia of West Virginia
- ✓ Any circuit judge, prosecuting attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney or investigator duly appointed by a prosecuting attorney

✓ Individuals required to possess items prohibited by the policy in order to participate in undertakings sanctioned by WVU, including academic/research programs, historical items and the farm management programs that are approved by the Department of Natural Resources

✓ WVU Mountaineer

NOTE: These individuals must be acting in their official capacity to carry a firearm on campus.

Q. How would House Bill 2519 change the current law?

A. If House Bill 2519 becomes law, the University would retain the full authority of the current law to force individuals without a current valid concealed weapon permit to leave WVU property if they have a firearm. However, individuals with a concealed weapon permit would have the right to carry a concealed firearm on certain areas of our campus.

Q. Have other states adopted similar laws?

A. Yes. If House Bill 2519 becomes law, West Virginia would become the twelfth U.S. state to require public universities to allow weapons on campus in some form or fashion. Other states include:

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| ✓ Arkansas | ✓ Kansas | ✓ Texas |
| ✓ Colorado | ✓ Mississippi | ✓ Utah |
| ✓ Georgia | ✓ Oregon | ✓ Wisconsin |
| ✓ Idaho | ✓ Tennessee | |

NOTE: Tennessee allows faculty members to carry concealed weapons on campus. Neither students nor the general public are permitted to carry firearms on campus.

Q. Is the bill similar to laws in other states?

A. In seven of the 11 states that allow campus carry, the governing boards of institutions of higher education are provided the discretion to designate areas of campus where concealed weapons should not be permitted.

Q. Does House Bill 2519 have any limitations on where concealed weapon permit holders may carry a firearm on campus?

A. Yes. If House Bill 2519 becomes law, WVU still may prohibit concealed weapons in certain areas of campus, even for individuals with a concealed weapon permit:

- ✓ venues or arenas with a capacity of more than 1,000 spectators
- ✓ daycare facilities
- ✓ secure areas of any building used by law enforcement

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- // areas where the University has implemented adequate security measures
- // disciplinary hearings
- // in high hazardous and animal laboratories
- // in specifically designated areas in which patient-care or mental health counseling is being provided
- // areas used exclusively by K-12 or private entities
- // areas where prohibited by state and federal law
- // individual offices not open to the public
- // in campus residence halls, except common areas, such as lounges, dining areas and study areas

Q. Would firearms be permitted in residence halls or University housing for concealed weapons permit holders under the bill?

A. Yes, but only in common areas and not rooms.

NOTE: Like Arkansas, West Virginia would only allow concealed weapons permit holders to carry weapons into common areas in campus residence halls, such as lounges, dining areas and study areas.

Q. What about areas that the University leases to other parties?

A. House Bill 2519 only applies to property where WVU retains custodial possession. Therefore, the bill would not apply to property leased by the University.

Q. If the bill passes when would it go into effect?

A. There is a delayed implementation date of July 2020 in the current contemplated bill. This would allow the University time to educate students, faculty and staff before the law becomes effective.

Q. Would firearms be permitted in classrooms or lecture halls for concealed weapons permit holders under the bill?

A. Yes. If House Bill 2519 becomes law, concealed weapons would be permitted in classrooms and lecture halls.

Q. Could faculty disallow them in their classroom at their discretion?

A. No, faculty would not be permitted to ban concealed weapons permit holders from carrying in their classrooms or lecture halls.

Q. If the bill passes would individuals with a concealed weapons permit from another state be allowed to carry a firearm on campus?

A. Yes. There are 36 states with reciprocity that meet and/or exceed the minimum requirements in West Virginia to obtain a concealed weapons permit. Individuals with permits from those 36 states would be allowed to carry a concealed weapon within designated areas of campus.

Q. What kind of safety training is offered to students, faculty and staff on active shooter situations? Would this training be updated if the bill becomes law?

A. For the past eight years, University Police Department (UPD) has and will continue to offer Active Shooter/ Shots Fired training. Shots Fired training is a safety program that explains how the Police will respond if an active shooting has occurred. This training goes in depth on what is expected of you upon UPD's arrival. UPD regularly updates all trainings to provide the most effective information for students, faculty and staff. Visit police.wvu.edu/training to learn more.

Q. How much would it cost to implement this bill if it becomes law?

A. The University has estimated a one-time implementation cost of approximately \$350,000 and an annual cost of \$350,000 for additional security personnel.

Q. Where can I find more information?

A. Stay tuned to ENEWS for the latest information on House Bill 2519. Updates also will be available in “**Under the Dome.**” Contact the **WVU Government Relations** team with any questions. Visit the **West Virginia Legislature** website for contact information if you wish to speak with your local representative.