

OFFICE OF SHERIFF

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February 21, 2020

Honorable Billie Jo Underwood
Chairwoman
Baldwin County Commission
22251 Palmer Street
Robertsdale, AL 36527

RE: Resolution Request

Dear Chairwoman Underwood:

I am requesting the Baldwin County Commission consider a resolution opposing two similar pieces of legislation which would dramatically affect the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office and public safety of the citizens of Baldwin County.

Recently introduced in the Alabama Legislature, have been House Bill 39 & Senate Bill 47. These are related bills which address the issuance of concealed carry permits within the State of Alabama. In particular, these bills will dramatically affect and, if not eliminate, the current way Alabama concealed carry permits are issued by all of Alabama sheriffs.

If these pieces of legislation were to pass, they will transfer the power of the County Sheriff to maintain and oversee concealed carry permits, to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency in Montgomery. Currently, Baldwin County residents can go to four different locations within the county and purchase their concealed carry permit. The average turnaround time for this process is less than 10 minutes per transaction. If the current legislation were to pass, citizens will still come to the Sheriff's Office to turn in an application for a permit. Then my office would issue a temporary permit and, at a point in time to be determined, the permit would be issued to them from ALEA via mail. There would also be a change in the majority of the fee collected for the lifetime permit. These funds will now be transferred to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency for maintenance of the system.

If the legislation passes, it will also remove any authority the Sheriff has, to revoke a permit based upon a criminal conviction, criminal violation, mental health issue, or any other public safety interest. The Sheriff can only recommend a revocation to Montgomery, and Montgomery will have to make a decision on it through the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency.

Another provision of the bill, will be to establish a lifetime pistol permit. Under the proposed legislation, anyone age 19, or above, could purchase a lifetime concealed carry permit. The only check on a lifetime permit holder after issuance is a non-workable system run from MONTGOMERY. If an individual had a criminal charge following the issuance of the permit, the odds are great that the new offense will never be discovered. Under our current system, individuals specifically must come in for renewal so their background check can be conducted and monitored out of a public safety interest.

This legislation, if passed, would again issue a lifetime permit to individuals 19 and above, contrary to federal law, where only an individual 21 and above can purchase a handgun.

The proposed legislation would also place an additional burden upon each County Circuit Clerk and Probate Judge. In this legislation, each of these entities would be required to monitor and submit various items from their office regarding individuals. There are currently over 750,000 concealed carry permits in the State of Alabama, with approximately 350,000 being issued each year. You can see what impact this may have on those local offices in dealing with these numbers and monitor them while submitting the data to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency.

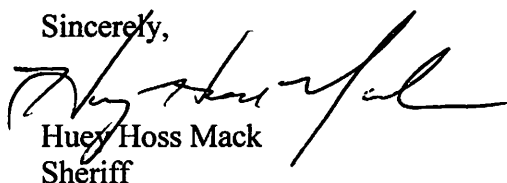
The final portion of the bill deals with a statewide database to share information among all 67 sheriffs in the state regarding concealed carry permits. This database currently exists among Alabama

Sheriffs and is in the process of being totally completed. If this legislation passes, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency would have to create a new database and by their own estimated cost would create a burden of approximately \$1.2--\$1.5 million in additional funding to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency to accomplish this.

As you can see, there are many aspects of this legislation that make it unpalatable once you get into the details. This is simply not a "Concealed Carry Permit Bill". This would dramatically change the system as we understand it now, and transfer the local power of public safety to Montgomery. This is also a money grab in the sense they would be removing local dollars collected by each sheriff. Pistol permit money now remains with the local sheriff, but under the new legislation it would be transferred to Montgomery, decreasing funding at the local level.

For the above stated reasons, I'm asking the Baldwin County Commission to consider a resolution, formally opposing Senate bill 47 and House Bill 39. If you need any further information please not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Huey Hoss Mack
Sheriff