

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING HOUSE BILL 280

Georgia House Bill 280, commonly referred to as the “campus” legislation, takes effect as of July 1, 2017. For more information on this new law (which amends O.C.G.A. § 16-127.1) and how it will be implemented on University System of Georgia campuses, please read Chancellor Wrigley’s guidance to the USG community, dated May 24, 2017. Below you will find additional information in response to common topics of inquiries that members of the USG community have posed.

First, it is important to reiterate that the Bill 280 establishes that anyone who is licensed to carry a handgun may do so in a concealed manner – anywhere on Georgia’s public college and university campuses except in certain areas that are specifically listed in the law. If an area of campus is not mentioned in one of those exceptions, license holders may carry guns there. Unlike “campus carry” laws in some other states, HB 280 does not give colleges and universities in Georgia discretion to prohibit handguns on their campuses or to add any additional exceptions to the ability to carry handguns beyond those already defined in the law.

Can license holders carry concealed handguns in laboratories on campus?

Yes. HB 280 sets out specific excepted areas in which license holders may not carry handguns, and laboratories are not one of those exceptions. Handguns would only be prohibited in a laboratory if the particular space were to fall within one of the specific exceptions.

Can license holders carry concealed handguns at summer camps on campus?

Yes. Summer camps are set out as an exception to the ability to carry concealed handguns on campus in HB 280. Handguns are prohibited, however, in childcare spaces, which include programs for children under 18 years of age that are located within an enclosed space behind a controlled access point (meaning access via personnel stationed at the door or an electronic mechanism) limited to authorized people.

Can licenseholders carry concealed handguns in health centers and exam rooms on campus?

Yes. Health centers and their examination rooms are not specifically excepted from the general rule that license

Can faculty members and students other than license holders ask the registrar whether high school students are enrolled in their classes?

Yes.

Can faculty members ask students to identify themselves if they are carrying handguns or ask students who carry handguns to take different classes?

No. State law grants license holders the ability to carry handguns to public college and university classes (except those in which high school students are enrolled), and faculty members may not ask license holders to reveal that they are carrying concealed handguns or in any way discourage them from doing what they are

If a student or employee violates the provisions of HB 280, may the institution treat that conduct as a violation of its student code of conduct or personnel rules?

Yes. The immediate situation should be handled by law enforcement, but afterwards the conduct may be treated as a violation of the student code of conduct or the personnel rules. That process should be handled in the same manner as any other student or employee misconduct case would be handled.