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## DIGEST

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Thompson

HB No. 98

**Abstract:** Provides for the issuance of concealed handgun permits by the sheriff and authorizes reciprocity agreements between contiguous parishes.

Present law authorizes a sheriff to issue a concealed handgun permit which is valid within the boundaries of a parish.

Proposed law retains this provision of present law.

Proposed law authorizes a sheriff to enter into a reciprocity agreement with a sheriff of a contiguous parish to issue concealed handgun permits which are valid in both participating parishes. Further establishes qualifications and criteria for the issuance of such concealed handgun permits.

Proposed law provides that any information in any application for a concealed handgun permit or any information provided in connection with the application submitted to the sheriff's office shall be held confidential and shall not be subject to any public records request nor shall the information be considered as a public record. Further provides that the sheriff shall not be required to release any list of persons who applied for or received a permit for a concealed handgun.

Proposed law provides that absent a valid court order requiring the release of information, it shall be unlawful for any employee of the sheriff's office to intentionally disseminate for publication any information contained in an application for a concealed handgun permit or any information regarding the identity of any person who applied for or received a concealed handgun permit. Proposed law provides penalties for violations of a fine of not more than \$500, imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

Proposed law further provides that penalties for a person other than a sheriff's employee who releases or disseminates the information contained in a concealed handgun application or permit shall include a fine of not more than \$10,000, and may include imprisonment for not more than six months.

Proposed law provides that the sheriff may assess a reasonable processing fee for the issuance of a concealed handgun permit.

Provides that proposed law shall not be construed to invalidate any concealed handgun permit

issued by the sheriff prior to Aug. 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 44:4.1(26); Adds R.S. 40:1379.1.1; Repeals R.S. 40:1379.1(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds a reference to the proposed public records exemption in the Public Records Law and makes technical changes.

House Floor Amendments to the reengrossed bill.

1. Changed criminal penalties from a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both to a mandatory fine of not more than \$10,000 and a potential term of imprisonment for not more than six months.
2. Added legislative bureau amendments.