Proposed Gun Legislation

General Faculty, General Faculty Assembly, & Academic Senate
(Combined Meeting)
February 16, 2010
Current Gun Law

The current Georgia law regarding possession of firearms states:

“Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this Code section, it shall be unlawful for any person to carry...while within a school safety zone...any weapon or explosive compound.”

Current Gun Law

Subsection (c) exceptions include:

A peace officer…;
A law enforcement officer of the United States government;
A prosecuting attorney of this state or of the United States;

[and numerous others]
House Bill 615

The operative language of House Bill 615 would amend the law to say:

“A person possessing a license issued pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129 shall be permitted to carry a firearm in every location in the state not listed in subsection (a) of this Code section, notwithstanding any other Code section, provided that nothing in this subsection shall limit any pre-existing right to exclude others from private property.”

Senate Bill 308 contains similar provisions.
Subsection (a) exceptions include:

[A] portion of a building that houses a courtroom or a jail or prison
A gun license won’t be issued to:

Anyone under 21 years old;
Anyone convicted of a felony;
Anyone involuntarily hospitalized in a mental hospital within 5 years of requesting a license

[other disqualifications exist as well]
Data Points

Results from a 2009 national random survey of campus police chiefs found that 86% disagree or strongly disagree that allowing students to carry concealed weapons on campus would prevent campus killings as occurred at Virginia Tech.

The survey also found that over the past five years, 35 percent of U.S. college campuses have had a firearm incident (e.g. carrying a firearm on campus, firearm stored in a residence hall, or an actual shooting).

Source: Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
Additional Concerns about guns on campus

Drugs and alcohol – Weapons and substance abuse are a dangerous combination

Suicide and mental health issues - If a gun is used in a suicide attempt, more than 90% of the time it is fatal, compared to a 3% fatality rate for suicide attempts by drug overdose

Gun theft risks – Guns stolen from homes and cars fuel crime. College dorm rooms would be an even easier target for gun thieves.

False sense of security – Even trained police officers, on average, hit their intended targets less than 20% of the time.

Source: Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
Campuses that permit concealed carry

Public colleges and universities in Utah
Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, VA
Colorado State Univ. in Fort Collins, CO

Source: Students for Gun Free Schools