

Please find **FAVORABLE** HB 820
Handgun Permits – Special Endorsement for Security Clearance Holders

HB 820 is a narrowly tailored, common-sense bill that recognizes the extraordinary level of trust, integrity, and accountability required of individuals who hold or have long held Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information security clearances. These individuals undergo some of the most rigorous background investigations conducted by the federal government and remain subject to continuous evaluation.

The bill does not expand handgun permitting, lower standards, or create new exemptions. It simply allows a small, highly vetted class of existing permit holders to carry in the same limited locations where law enforcement officers are already authorized to do so. This alignment is reasonable given the comparable level of scrutiny and responsibility these individuals carry in their professional and private lives.

Importantly, HB 820 imposes **no cost** to taxpayers. It relies entirely on existing permit systems and State Police oversight, making it fiscally neutral while vastly enhancing lawful self-defense and public safety.

Any concerns about misuse are unfounded in that TS/SCI clearance holders have demonstrated long-term reliability, respect for rules, and adherence to strict legal and ethical standards that go above and may surpasses law enforcement screening standards. This bill acknowledges that reality without compromising safety or expanding government authority.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a very **favorable** report on House Bill 820.

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Comparison of LEO vs TS//SCI Clearance Holder Vetting

CATEGORY	LEO	TS//SCI Clearance
Background Investigation	Criminal history, employment, references	Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI) (Tier 5) equivalent or successor investigation ¹
Fingerprinting & Biometrics	✓	✓ ¹
Financial Scrutiny	Limited / agency-dependent	Comprehensive financial review for coercion and influence risks ²
Foreign Contacts & Travel Review	Minimal	Extensive review of foreign contacts, travel, and affiliations ²
Psychological / Suitability Review	Required at hiring	Ongoing suitability and trustworthiness evaluation ³
Continuous Monitoring	Varies by agency	Continuous Evaluation (CE) program ⁴
Reinvestigation	Rare after hiring	Mandatory reinvestigation, polygraph and continuous vetting ⁴
Oversight Authority	Local / state agency	Federal oversight (ODNI, DoD, DHS, DOJ) ¹
Integrity Tolerance	Varies	Extremely low tolerance; minor issues can end clearance as well as employment ³

[1] Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) – Security Executive Agent Directive (SEAD) 4: National Security Adjudicative Guidelines (background investigations, adjudication standards, clearance revocation authority). <https://sgp.fas.org/othergov/intel/sead-4.pdf>

[2] ODNI / DoD – Personnel Security Program guidance: financial, foreign influence, and foreign preference evaluations. <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodm/520002m.pdf>

[3] Adjudicative Guidelines for Determining Eligibility for Access to Classified Information, 32 C.F.R. Part 147. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-32/subtitle-A/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-147>

[4] ODNI Continuous Evaluation Program – ongoing automated record checks and reporting requirements replacing periodic reinvestigations. <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/ncsc-how-we-work/ncsc-security-executive-agent/ncsc-continuous-evaluation-overview>