

# 18-12-202. Definitions - repeal.

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As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Repealed.

(2) "Certified instructor" means an instructor for a firearms safety course who is certified as a firearms instructor by:

(a) A county, municipal, state, or federal law enforcement agency;

(b) The peace officers standards and training board created in section 24-31-302, C.R.S.;

(c) A federal military agency; or

(d) A national nonprofit organization that certifies firearms instructors, operates national firearms competitions, and provides training, including courses in personal protection, in small arms safety, use, and marksmanship.

(e) This subsection (2) is repealed, effective July 1, 2025.

(3) "Chronically and habitually uses alcoholic beverages to the extent that the applicant's normal faculties are impaired" means:

(a) The applicant has at any time been committed as a person with an alcohol use disorder pursuant to section 27-81-111 or 27-81-112; or

(b) Within the ten-year period immediately preceding the date on which the permit application is submitted, the applicant:

(I) Has been committed as a person with an alcohol use disorder pursuant to section 27-81-109 or 27-81-110; or

(II) Has had two or more alcohol-related convictions under section 42-4-1301 (1) or (2), C.R.S., or a law of another state that has similar elements, or revocations related to misdemeanor, alcohol-related convictions under section 42-2-126, C.R.S., or a law of another state that has similar elements.

(3.5) **[Editor's note: Subsection (3.5) is effective July 1, 2025.]** "Concealed handgun training class" means a concealed handgun training class as described in section 18-12-202.5 and does not include a refresher class.

(4) "Handgun" means a handgun as defined in section 18-12-101 (1)(e.5); except that the term does not include a machine gun as defined in section 18-12-101 (1)(g).

(5)

(a) "Handgun training class" means:

(I) A law enforcement training firearms safety course;

(II) A firearms safety course offered by a law enforcement agency, an institution of higher education, or a public or private institution or organization or firearms training school, that is open to the general public and is taught by a certified instructor; or

(III) A firearms safety course or class that is offered and taught by a certified instructor.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection (5), "handgun training class" does not include any firearms safety course that allows a person to complete the entire course:

(I) Via the internet or an electronic device; or

(II) In any location other than the physical location where the certified instructor offers the course.

(c) This subsection (5) is repealed, effective July 1, 2025.

(6) "Permit" means a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued pursuant to the provisions of this part 2; except that "permit" does not include a temporary emergency permit issued pursuant to section 18-12-209.

(6.5) **[Editor's note: Subsection (6.5) is effective July 1, 2025.]** "Refresher class" means a concealed handgun refresher class as described in section 18-12-202.5 (4).

(7) "Sheriff" means the sheriff of a county, or his or her designee, or the official who has the duties of a sheriff in a city and county, or his or her designee.

(8) **[Editor's note: This version of subsection (8) is effective until July 1, 2025.]** "Training certificate" means a certificate, affidavit, or other document issued by the instructor, school, club, or organization that conducts a handgun training class that evidences an applicant's successful completion of the class requirements.

(8) **[Editor's note: This version of subsection (8) is effective July 1, 2025.]** "Training certificate" means a certificate issued by a verified instructor who conducts a concealed handgun training class or a refresher class that evidences an applicant's successful completion of the class requirements.

(9) **[Editor's note: Subsection (9) is effective July 1, 2025.]** "Verified instructor" means an instructor for a firearms safety course verified as a firearms instructor by a sheriff pursuant to section 18-12-202.7.

## 18-12-202.5. Concealed handgun training class - refresher class - rules.

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**(1)** A concealed handgun training class is any of the following:

**(a)** A law enforcement training firearms safety course; or

**(b)** A firearms safety course taught by a verified instructor and offered by a law enforcement agency; an institution of higher education; or a public or private institution, organization, or firearms training school, that is open to the general public and is taught by a verified instructor.

**(2)** A concealed handgun training class must be held in person with the instructor of the class at the same location as the students, and no part of the class may be conducted via the internet. A concealed handgun training class must provide a minimum of eight hours of instruction, including the live-fire shooting exercise described in subsection (3)(g) of this section and the written concealed handgun competency exam described in subsection (3)(h) of this section. The eight hours of instruction in a course do not need to be consecutive.

**(3)** A concealed handgun training class must include the following elements:

**(a)** Instruction regarding knowledge and safe handling of firearms and ammunition;

**(b)** Instruction regarding safe storage of firearms and child safety;

**(c)** Instruction regarding safe firearms shooting fundamentals;

**(d)** Instruction regarding federal and state laws pertaining to the lawful purchase, ownership, transportation, use, and possession of firearms, including instruction on extreme risk protection orders described in article 14.5 of title 13, requirements for reporting lost or stolen firearms described in section 18-12-113, secure firearms storage requirements described in section 18-12-114, and any other state law enacted within five years before the class that pertains to the purchase, ownership, transportation, use, and possession of firearms;

**(e)** Instruction regarding state law pertaining to the use of deadly force for self-defense;

**(e.5)** Instruction regarding best practices to ensure concealed handgun permit holders safely interact with law enforcement personnel who are responding to an emergency;

**(f)** Instruction regarding techniques for avoiding a criminal attack and how to manage a violent confrontation, including conflict resolution and judgmental use of lethal force;

**(g)** A requirement that a student achieve a minimum seventy percent accuracy score, as determined by the instructor, in a live-fire shooting exercise conducted on a range, which requires discharging at least fifty rounds of ammunition and which does not need to be conducted in a single day; and

**(h)** A requirement that a student achieve a passing score of at least eighty percent on a written concealed handgun competency exam that tests a student's knowledge of the subjects described in subsections (3)(a) to (3)(f) of this section. The exam must be administered as an open book exam.

**(4)**

**(a)** A concealed handgun refresher class requires a student to demonstrate safety and competence with a handgun. A refresher class must be taught by a verified instructor and must include instruction on changes to federal and state laws related to firearms enacted within five years before the refresher class; a live-fire shooting exercise conducted on a range, which requires discharging at least fifty rounds of ammunition; and a written concealed handgun competency exam that tests a student's knowledge of the subjects described in subsections (3)(a) to (3)(f) of this section.

**(b)** A refresher class must be held in person with the instructor of the class at the same location as the students, and no part of the class may be conducted via the internet. A refresher class must include at least two hours of instruction, including the live-fire exercise and the written exam. In order to complete a refresher class, a student must achieve a minimum seventy percent accuracy score, as determined by the instructor, in the live-fire shooting exercise and a passing score of at least eighty percent on the written exam. The exam must be administered as an open book exam.

**(c)** A training certificate issued for the completion of a refresher class is valid for renewal of a permit to carry a concealed handgun pursuant to section 18-12-211, but is not valid for an initial application for a permit to carry a concealed handgun pursuant to section 18-12-203 (1)(h)(VI).

**(5)** A verified instructor shall provide a training certificate that includes the printed name and original signature of the class instructor to any student who completes a concealed handgun training class or a refresher class so that the student may submit the certificate to a sheriff as part of an initial application for, or an application for renewal of, a permit to carry a concealed handgun. The training certificate must clearly indicate whether the student completed a concealed handgun training class or a refresher class.

(6) A concealed handgun training class and a refresher class is subject to the requirements of the federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990", 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq.

## 18-12-202.7. Concealed handgun training class - instructor verification.

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(1) Each sheriff shall verify as a firearms instructor a person whose principal place to conduct firearms training is in the sheriff's county and who:

(a) Satisfies the requirements for verification described in this section; and

(b) Pays any fee required pursuant to subsection (5) of this section.

(2) To become a verified instructor, an applicant must:

(a) Hold a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun issued pursuant this part 2 that is not a temporary emergency permit issued pursuant to section 18-12-209; and

(b) Be certified as a firearms instructor by one of the following entities that has instructors certified by a nationally recognized organization that customarily offers firearms training:

(I) A federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency;

(II) A college or university;

(III) A nationally recognized organization that customarily offers firearms training; or

(IV) A firearms training school.

(3)

(a) An instructor verification issued pursuant to this section is valid for ten years and may be renewed at any time prior to expiration.

(b) A sheriff shall issue evidence of verification to a verified instructor. The evidence of verification must include the date of expiration of the verification.

(c) Each sheriff shall maintain a record of firearms instructors verified by the sheriff and shall post a list of verified instructors on the sheriff's website. The list must include the expiration date of an instructor's verification.

(4)

(a) A sheriff shall revoke a verification issued pursuant to this section if the verified instructor ceases to meet the requirements for verification.

(b) A sheriff may revoke or suspend a verification issued pursuant to this section if the verified instructor provides instruction in a concealed handgun training class or refresher class that fails to meet the requirements for the class pursuant to this part 2 and that results in the issuance of a training certificate. A person who has had a verification suspended pursuant to this subsection (4)(b) may apply for reinstatement no earlier than thirty days following suspension.

(c) If a sheriff denies a person's application for verification as a firearms instructor or suspends or revokes a person's firearms instructor verification, the sheriff shall notify the person in writing. The notice must state the grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation and inform the person of the right to seek judicial review pursuant to section 18-12-207.

(5) A sheriff may establish and impose a fee to cover the actual direct and indirect costs of processing applications and issuing and renewing verifications pursuant to this section.

## 18-12-203. Criteria for obtaining a permit.

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(1) Beginning May 17, 2003, except as set forth in this section, a sheriff shall issue a permit to carry a concealed handgun to an applicant who:

(a) Is a legal resident of the state of Colorado. For purposes of this part 2, a person who is a member of the armed forces and is stationed pursuant to permanent duty station orders at a military installation in this state, and a member of the person's immediate family living in Colorado, shall be deemed to be a legal resident of the state of Colorado.

(b) Is twenty-one years of age or older;

(c) Is not ineligible to possess a firearm pursuant to section 18-12-108 or federal law;

(c.5) *[Editor's note: Subsection (1)(c.5) is effective July 1, 2025.]* Has not been convicted of any of the offenses described in section 24-33.5-424 (3)(b.3) committed on or after July 1, 2025, if the offense is classified as a misdemeanor, and the applicant has not been convicted in another state or

jurisdiction, including a military or federal jurisdiction, of an offense that, if committed in Colorado, would constitute any of the offenses described in section 24-33.5-424 (3)(b.3) classified as a misdemeanor offense, within five years prior to filing the permit application;

**(d)** Has not been convicted of perjury under section 18-8-503, in relation to information provided or deliberately omitted on a permit application submitted pursuant to this part 2;

**(e)**

**(I)** Does not chronically and habitually use alcoholic beverages to the extent that the applicant's normal faculties are impaired.

**(II)** The prohibition specified in this subsection (1)(e) shall not apply to an applicant who provides an affidavit, signed by a professional counselor or addiction counselor who is licensed pursuant to article 245 of title 12 and specializes in alcohol addiction, stating that the applicant has been evaluated by the counselor and has been determined to be a recovering alcoholic who has refrained from using alcohol for at least three years.

**(f)** Is not an unlawful user of or addicted to a controlled substance as defined in section 18-18-102 (5). Whether an applicant is an unlawful user of or addicted to a controlled substance shall be determined as provided in federal law and regulations.

**(g)** Is not subject to:

**(I)** A protection order issued pursuant to section 18-1-1001 or section 19-2.5-607 that is in effect at the time the application is submitted; or

**(II)** A permanent protection order issued pursuant to article 14 of title 13;

**(III)** A temporary protection order issued pursuant to article 14 of title 13 that is in effect at the time the application is submitted; or

**(IV)** A temporary extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to section 13-14.5-103 (3) or an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to section 13-14.5-105 (2);

**(h)** Demonstrates competence with a handgun by submitting:

**(I)** *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (1)(h)(I) is effective until July 1, 2025.]* Evidence of experience with a firearm through participation in organized shooting competitions or current military service;

**(I)** *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (1)(h)(I) is effective July 1, 2025.]* Evidence of experience with a firearm through participation in organized shooting competitions, current military service, or current certification as a peace officer pursuant to article 2.5 of title 16;

**(II)** Evidence that, at the time the application is submitted, the applicant is a certified instructor;

**(III)** Proof of honorable discharge from a branch of the United States armed forces within the three years preceding submittal of the application;

**(IV)** Proof of honorable discharge from a branch of the United States armed forces that reflects pistol qualifications obtained within the ten years preceding submittal of the application;

**(V)** A certificate showing retirement from a Colorado law enforcement agency that reflects pistol qualifications obtained within the ten years preceding submittal of the application; or

**(VI)** *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (1)(h)(VI) is effective until July 1, 2025.]* A training certificate from a handgun training class obtained within the ten years preceding submittal of the application. The applicant shall submit the original training certificate or a photocopy thereof that includes the original signature of the instructor. To the extent permitted by section 18-12-202 (5), in obtaining a training certificate from a handgun training class, the applicant shall have discretion in selecting which handgun training class to complete.

**(VI)** *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (1)(h)(VI) is effective July 1, 2025.]* A training certificate from a concealed handgun training class obtained within the one year preceding submittal of the application. The applicant shall submit the original training certificate that includes the printed name and original signature of the verified instructor. To the extent permitted by section 18-12-202.5, in obtaining a training certificate from a concealed handgun training class, the applicant has discretion in selecting which concealed handgun training class to complete.

**(2)** Regardless of whether an applicant meets the criteria specified in subsection (1) of this section, if the sheriff has a reasonable belief that documented previous behavior by the applicant makes it likely the applicant will present a danger to self or others if the applicant receives a permit to carry a concealed handgun, the sheriff may deny the permit.

**(3)**

**(a)** The sheriff shall deny, revoke, or refuse to renew a permit if an applicant or a permittee fails to meet one of the criteria listed in subsection (1) of this section and may deny, revoke, or refuse to renew a permit on the grounds specified in subsection (2) of this section.

**(b)** Following issuance of a permit, if the issuing sheriff has a reasonable belief that a permittee no longer meets the criteria specified in subsection (1) of this section or that the permittee presents a

danger as described in subsection (2) of this section, the sheriff shall suspend the permit until such time as the matter is resolved and the issuing sheriff determines that the permittee is eligible to possess a permit as provided in this section.

(c) If the sheriff suspends or revokes a permit, the sheriff shall notify the permittee in writing, stating the grounds for suspension or revocation and informing the permittee of the right to seek a second review by the sheriff, to submit additional information for the record, and to seek judicial review pursuant to section 18-12-207.

## 18-12-211. Renewal of permits.

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(1)

(a) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (1)(a) is effective until July 1, 2025.]* Within one hundred twenty days prior to expiration of a permit, the permittee may obtain a renewal form from the sheriff of the county or city and county in which the permittee resides or from the sheriff of the county or city and county in which the permittee maintains a secondary residence or owns or leases real property used by the permittee in a business and renew the permit by submitting to the sheriff a completed renewal form, a notarized affidavit stating that the permittee remains qualified pursuant to the criteria specified in section 18-12-203 (1)(a) to (1)(g), and the required renewal fee not to exceed fifty dollars, as set by the sheriff pursuant to section 18-12-205 (5). The renewal form must meet the requirements specified in section 18-12-205 (1) for an application.

(a) *[Editor's note: This version of subsection (1)(a) is effective July 1, 2025.]* Within one hundred twenty days prior to expiration of a permit, the permittee may obtain a renewal form from the sheriff of the county or city and county in which the permittee resides or from the sheriff of the county or city and county in which the permittee maintains a secondary residence or owns or leases real property used by the permittee in a business and renew the permit by demonstrating competence with a handgun, as described in subsection (3) of this section, and submitting to the sheriff a completed renewal form; an affidavit stating that the permittee remains qualified pursuant to the criteria specified in section 18-12-203 (1)(a) to (1)(g); and the required renewal fee not to exceed fifty dollars, as set by the sheriff pursuant to section 18-12-205 (5). The renewal form must meet the requirements specified in section 18-12-205 (1) for an application.

(b) If the sheriff is not the same sheriff who issued the permit to the permittee:

(I) The permittee shall submit to the renewing sheriff, in addition to the materials described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), a legible photocopy of the permit; and

(II) The renewing sheriff shall contact the office of the sheriff who issued the permit and confirm that the issuing sheriff has not revoked or suspended the permit.

(c) The sheriff shall verify pursuant to section 18-12-205 (4) that the permittee meets the criteria specified in section 18-12-203 (1)(a) to (1)(g) and is not a danger as described in section 18-12-203 (2) and shall either renew or deny the renewal of the permit in accordance with the provisions of section 18-12-206 (1). If the sheriff denies renewal of a permit, the permittee may seek a second review of the renewal application by the sheriff and may submit additional information for the record. The permittee may also seek judicial review as provided in section 18-12-207.

(2) A permittee who fails to file a renewal form on or before the permit expiration date may renew the permit by paying a late fee of fifteen dollars in addition to the renewal fee established pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. No permit shall be renewed six months or more after its expiration date, and the permit shall be deemed to have permanently expired. A person whose permit has permanently expired may reapply for a permit, but the person shall submit an application for a permit and the fee required pursuant to section 18-12-205. A person who knowingly and intentionally files false or misleading information or deliberately omits material information required under this section is subject to criminal prosecution for perjury under section 18-8-503.

(3) *[Editor's note: Subsection (3) is effective July 1, 2025.]* A permittee seeking renewal pursuant to this section may demonstrate competence with a handgun by submitting:

(a) Evidence of demonstrating competence with firearms through participation in organized shooting competitions, current military service, or current certification as a peace officer pursuant to article 2.5 of title 16;

(b) Evidence that, at the time the application is submitted, the applicant is a verified instructor;

- (c) Proof of honorable discharge from a branch of the United States armed forces that reflects pistol qualifications obtained within the ten years preceding submittal of the renewal form;
- (d) A certificate showing retirement from a Colorado law enforcement agency that reflects pistol qualifications obtained within the ten years preceding submittal of the renewal form; or
- (e) A training certificate that includes the original signature of the class instructor from a concealed handgun training class or a refresher class, described in section 18-12-202.5, obtained within six months prior to submitting a renewal form.

## 18-12-204. Permit contents - validity - carrying requirements.

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### (1)

(a) Each permit shall bear a color photograph of the permittee and shall display the signature of the sheriff who issues the permit. In addition, the sheriffs of this state shall ensure that all permits issued pursuant to this part 2 contain the same items of information and are the same size and the same color.

(b) A permit is valid for a period of five years after the date of issuance and may be renewed as provided in section 18-12-211. A permit issued pursuant to this part 2, including a temporary emergency permit issued pursuant to section 18-12-209, is effective in all areas of the state, except as otherwise provided in section 18-12-214.

### (2)

(a) A permittee, in compliance with the terms of a permit, may carry a concealed handgun as allowed by state law. The permittee shall carry the permit, together with valid photo identification, at all times during which the permittee is in actual possession of a concealed handgun and shall produce both documents upon demand by a law enforcement officer. Failure to produce a permit upon demand by a law enforcement officer raises a rebuttable presumption that the person does not have a permit. Failure to carry and produce a permit and valid photo identification upon demand as required in this subsection (2) is a petty offense. A charge of failure to carry and produce a permit and valid photo identification upon demand pursuant to this subsection (2) shall be dismissed by the court if, at or before the permittee's scheduled court appearance, the permittee exhibits to the court a valid permit and valid photo identification, both of which were issued to the permittee prior to the date on which the permittee was charged with failure to carry and produce a permit and valid photo identification upon demand.

(b) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) apply to temporary emergency permits issued pursuant to section 18-12-209.

### (3)

(a) A person who may lawfully possess a handgun may carry a handgun under the following circumstances without obtaining a permit and the handgun shall not be considered concealed:

- (I) The handgun is in the possession of a person who is in a private automobile or in some other private means of conveyance and who carries the handgun for a legal use, including self-defense; or
- (II) The handgun is in the possession of a person who is legally engaged in hunting activities within the state.

(b) The provisions of this subsection (3) shall not be construed to authorize the carrying of a handgun in violation of the provisions of section 18-12-105 or 18-12-105.5.

## 18-12-205. Sheriff - application - procedure - background check.

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### (1)

(a) To obtain a permit, a person shall submit a permit application on a statewide standardized form developed by the sheriffs and available from each sheriff. The permit application form shall solicit only the following information from the applicant:

- (I) The applicant's full name, date of birth, and address;

**(II)** The applicant's birth name, if different from the name provided pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a), and any other names the applicant may have used or by which the applicant may have been known;

**(III)** The applicant's home address or addresses for the ten-year period immediately preceding submittal of the application;

**(IV)** Whether the applicant is a resident of this state as of the date of application and whether the applicant has a valid driver's license or other state-issued photo identification or military order proving residence; and

**(V)** Whether the applicant meets the criteria for obtaining a permit specified in section 18-12-203 (1).

**(b)** The permit application form shall not require the applicant to waive or release a right or privilege, including but not limited to waiver or release of privileged or confidential information contained in medical records.

**(2)**

**(a)** An applicant shall complete the permit application form and return it, in person, to the sheriff of the county or city and county in which the applicant resides or to the sheriff of the county or city and county in which the applicant maintains a secondary residence or owns or leases real property used by the applicant in a business. The applicant shall sign the completed permit application form in person before the sheriff. The applicant shall provide his or her signature voluntarily upon a sworn oath that the applicant knows the contents of the permit application and that the information contained in the permit application is true and correct. An applicant who knowingly and intentionally makes a false or misleading statement on a permit application or deliberately omits any material information requested on the application commits perjury as described in section 18-8-503. Upon conviction, the applicant shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501. In addition, the applicant shall be denied the right to obtain or possess a permit, and the sheriff shall revoke the applicant's permit if issued prior to conviction.

**(b)** An applicant shall also submit to the sheriff a permit fee not to exceed one hundred dollars for processing the permit application. The sheriff shall set the amount of the permit fee as provided in subsection (5) of this section. In addition, the applicant shall submit an amount specified by the director of the bureau, pursuant to section 24-72-306, C.R.S., for processing the applicant's fingerprints through the bureau and through the federal bureau of investigation. Neither the permit fee nor the fingerprint processing fee shall be refundable in the event the sheriff denies the applicant's permit application or suspends or revokes the permit subsequent to issuance.

**(3)** In addition to the items specified in subsection (2) of this section, an applicant, when submitting the completed permit application, shall submit the following items to the sheriff:

**(a)** Documentary evidence demonstrating competence with a handgun as specified in section 18-12-203 (1)(h); and

**(b)** A full frontal view color photograph of the applicant's head taken within the thirty days immediately preceding submittal of the permit application; except that the applicant need not submit a photograph if the sheriff photographs the applicant for purposes of issuing a permit. Any photograph submitted shall show the applicant's full head, including hair and facial features, and the depiction of the applicant's head shall measure one and one-eighth inches wide and one and one-fourth inches high.

**(4)**

**(a)** The sheriff shall witness an applicant's signature on the permit application as provided in subsection (2) of this section and verify that the person making application for a permit is the same person who appears in any photograph submitted and the same person who signed the permit application form. To verify the applicant's identity, the applicant shall present to the sheriff the applicant's valid Colorado driver's license or valid Colorado or military photo identification.

**(b)** After verifying the applicant's identity, the sheriff shall take two complete sets of the applicant's fingerprints. The sheriff shall submit both sets of fingerprints to the bureau, and the sheriff shall not retain a set of the applicant's fingerprints.

**(c)** After receipt of a permit application and the items specified in this section, the sheriff shall verify that the applicant meets the criteria specified in section 18-12-203 (1) and is not a danger as described in section 18-12-203 (2). The verification at a minimum shall include requesting the bureau to conduct a search of the national instant criminal background check system and a search of the state integrated criminal justice information system to determine whether the applicant meets the criteria specified in section 18-12-203 (1). In addition, if the applicant resides in a municipality or town, the sheriff shall consult with the police department of the municipality or town in which the applicant resides, and the sheriff may consult with other local law enforcement agencies.

**(5)** The sheriff in each county or city and county in the state shall establish the amount of the new and renewal permit fees within his or her jurisdiction. The amount of the new and renewal permit fees shall comply with the limits specified in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section and section 18-12-211 (1), respectively. The fee amounts shall reflect the actual direct and indirect costs to the sheriff of processing permit applications and renewal applications pursuant to this part 2.