



# THE MONROE JOURNAL

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## Tate, West oppose gun bill

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A 6-3 vote in a state Senate Judiciary Committee public hearing March 1 has advanced a bill (Senate Bill 24) to the senate that seeks to repeal the requirement to purchase a concealed carry permit in order to carry a concealed firearm within a motor vehicle.

While very few law enforcement officials have spoken in favor of the bill, most have spoken out against it, including Monroe County Sheriff Thomas Tate and Frisco City Police Chief Omer West.

"In my opinion and the opinion of most law enforcement officials and agencies," said Tate, "this is bad legislation due to the fact it adds additional danger to law enforcement while

performing their duty of protecting and serving the general public."

Tate made it clear that he is an advocate of the right to bear arms, and he does not believe the current requirement to purchase a permit is an infringement on that right.

"As a citizen," said Tate, "I'm a strong believer in the second amend-

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Tate



West

### GUN BILL

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ment. I feel all individuals should be able to protect themselves and others from imminent danger and harm.

"The mere fact it is required to purchase a permit to carry a concealed firearm does not infringe on the rights of the law abiding and mentally stable to exercise their Second Amendment rights."

Tate pointed out that individuals are free to drive where they want, however they must first acquire a driver's license prior to travel. He said people are allowed to hunt, but are required to purchase a hunting license; people are allowed to fish, but must purchase a fishing license; and so on.

Also Tate said, "If this law

passes, individuals who travel outside Alabama without a current pistol permit from their county of residence will be in violation of the law of that state."

The sheriff's office estimates that around 10 permits at most are denied each year and always for good reason, such as a prior criminal record or individuals who have court-ordered mental health commitments.

West noted that he "agreed 100 percent" with what Tate said and also opposes the bill.

Concealed carry permits can be purchased from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for \$10 per year and up to five years can be purchased at a time.