

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5490

To provide for a grant program for handgun licensing programs, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2018

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut (for herself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. ADAMS)
introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the
Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for a grant program for handgun licensing
programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Handgun Purchaser
5 Licensing Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) In 2013, more than 33,000 Americans were
9 killed by guns and almost 90 percent of the firearms
10 used in these deaths were handguns.

1 (2) Recently published research by top national
2 experts, notably on Missouri and Connecticut hand-
3 gun purchaser licensing laws, have estimated that
4 Missouri’s repeal of its handgun purchaser licensing
5 law led to a 25-percent increase in firearm homicide
6 rates while Connecticut’s adoption of its handgun
7 purchaser licensing law led to a 40-percent decrease
8 in firearm homicide rates.

9 (3) In States which have had effective handgun
10 purchaser licensing laws for decades, such as Con-
11 necticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York,
12 the vast majority of guns traced to crimes originated
13 in other States, which supports the need for hand-
14 gun purchaser licensing laws in every State.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act—

17 (1) the terms “Attorney General” and “hand-
18 gun” have the meanings given those terms in section
19 921(a) of title 18, United States Code; and

20 (2) the term “Indian tribe” has the meaning
21 given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
22 mination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
23 450b).

1 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED FOR HANDGUN LI-**
2 **CENSING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is author-
4 ized to award grants to States, units of local government,
5 and Indian tribes for the development, implementation,
6 and evaluation of handgun purchaser licensing require-
7 ments.

8 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts ap-
9 propriated to carry out this Act and not later than 90
10 days after such amounts are appropriated, the Attorney
11 General shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eli-
12 gible applicants whose applications are approved under
13 subsection (c) to assist such applicants in implementing
14 and improving handgun purchaser licensing programs.

15 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
16 under this Act, a State, unit of local government, or In-
17 dian tribe shall submit to the Attorney General an applica-
18 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such
19 information as the Attorney General may require, includ-
20 ing—

21 (1) a description of the law that the applicant
22 has enacted to require a license for any purchase of
23 a handgun including a description of any exemptions
24 to such law; and

1 (2) a description of how the applicant will use
2 the grant to carry out or improve its handgun pur-
3 chaser licensing program.

4 (d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for
5 a grant under this Act, an applicant shall have in effect
6 handgun purchaser licensing laws that—

7 (1) require—

8 (A) an individual applying for a handgun
9 license or permit to be at least 21 years old and
10 be a national or lawful permanent resident of
11 the United States;

12 (B) an individual described in subpara-
13 graph (A) to apply for the handgun purchaser
14 license or permit at a law enforcement agency
15 in the State in which the individual resides;

16 (C) an individual who is issued a handgun
17 license or permit to reapply for the handgun
18 purchaser license or permit after a period not
19 longer than 5 years;

20 (D) an individual described in subpara-
21 graph (A) to submit to a background investiga-
22 tion, and a criminal history check, in connection
23 with the application, as established by the
24 State;

1 (E) an individual described in subpara-
2 graph (A) to submit fingerprints and photo-
3 graphs in connection with the application for
4 the license or permit; and

5 (F) an individual described in subpara-
6 graph (A) to provide—

7 (i) proof that the individual is legally
8 present and lawfully resides in the United
9 States, including a birth certificate, or
10 valid passport; and

11 (ii)(I) in the case of a lawful perma-
12 nent resident, the alien registration num-
13 ber and 90-day proof of residency; or

14 (II) in the case of a naturalized cit-
15 izen, proof of citizenship; and

16 (2) prohibit an individual who is prohibited
17 from possessing a firearm under section 922(g) of
18 title 18, United States Code, from receiving a license
19 or permit.

20 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—A grantee under this Act shall
21 use such grant to improve handgun purchaser licensing
22 programs of that grantee.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attor-
3 ney General such sums as may be necessary to carry out
4 this Act.

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