

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2662

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 12, 2018

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and 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 2016, 90 percent of the 11,004 firearm
9 homicides in the United States occurred with a
10 handgun.

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

(3) In States which have had effective handgun purchaser licensing laws for decades, such as Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York, the vast majority of guns traced to crimes originated in other States, which supports the need for handgun purchaser licensing laws in every State.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the terms “Attorney General”, “State”, and “handgun” have the meanings given those terms in section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code; and

(2) the term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

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

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may award
4 grants to States, units of local government, and Indian
5 tribes for the development, implementation, and evalua-
6 tion of handgun purchaser licensing requirements.

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

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

20 (1) a description of the law that the applicant
21 has enacted to require a license for any purchase of
22 a handgun including a description of any other ex-
23 emptions to such law; and

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

1 (d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for
2 grants, an applicant shall have in effect handgun pur-
3 chaser licensing laws that include the following provisions:

4 (1) An individual applying for a handgun li-
5 cense or permit must be not less than 21 years old
6 and be a national or lawful permanent resident of
7 the United States.

8 (2) Such an individual must apply for the hand-
9 gun purchaser license or permit at a law enforce-
10 ment agency in the State in which they reside.

11 (3) Such an individual must reapply for the
12 handgun purchaser license or permit after a period
13 not longer than 5 years.

14 (4) Such an individual must submit to a back-
15 ground investigation, and a criminal history check,
16 in connection with their application, as established
17 by the State.

18 (5) Such an individual must submit fingerprints
19 and photographs in connection with the application
20 for the license or permit.

21 (6) Such an individual must provide proof that
22 the individual is legally present and lawfully resides
23 in the United States, including a birth certificate, or
24 valid passport. A lawful permanent resident must
25 provide his or her alien registration number and 90-

1 day proof of residency. A naturalized citizen must
2 provide proof of citizenship.

3 (7) Any individual who is prohibited from pos-
4 sessing a firearm under section 922(g) of title 18,
5 United States Code, may not receive a license or
6 permit.

7 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant under
8 this Act shall use such grant to improve handgun pur-
9 chaser licensing programs of that grantee.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
12 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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