

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

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*An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.2:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to handgun purchases; eliminate limitation on handgun purchases.*

[H 940]

Approved

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 18.2-308.2:2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 18.2-308.2:2. Criminal history record information check required for the transfer of certain firearms.

A. Any person purchasing from a dealer a firearm as herein defined shall consent in writing, on a form to be provided by the Department of State Police, to have the dealer obtain criminal history record information. Such form shall include only the written consent; the name, birth date, gender, race, citizenship, and social security number and/or any other identification number; the number of firearms by category intended to be sold, rented, traded, or transferred; and answers by the applicant to the following questions: (i) has the applicant been convicted of a felony offense or found guilty or adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile 14 years of age or older at the time of the offense of a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult; (ii) is the applicant subject to a court order restraining the applicant from harassing, stalking, or threatening the applicant's child or intimate partner, or a child of such partner, or is the applicant subject to a protective order; and (iii) has the applicant ever been acquitted by reason of insanity and prohibited from purchasing, possessing or transporting a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:1 or any substantially similar law of any other jurisdiction, been adjudicated legally incompetent, mentally incapacitated or adjudicated an incapacitated person and prohibited from purchasing a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:2 or any substantially similar law of any other jurisdiction, or been involuntarily admitted to an inpatient facility or involuntarily ordered to outpatient mental health treatment and prohibited from purchasing a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:3 or any substantially similar law of any other jurisdiction.

B. 1. No dealer shall sell, rent, trade or transfer from his inventory any such firearm to any other person who is a resident of Virginia until he has (i) obtained written consent and the other information on the consent form specified in subsection A, and provided the Department of State Police with the name, birth date, gender, race, citizenship, and social security and/or any other identification number and the number of firearms by category intended to be sold, rented, traded or transferred and (ii) requested criminal history record information by a telephone call to or other communication authorized by the State Police and is authorized by subdivision 2 of this subsection to complete the sale or other such transfer. To establish personal identification and residence in Virginia for purposes of this section, a dealer must require any prospective purchaser to present one photo-identification form issued by a governmental agency of the Commonwealth or by the United States Department of Defense, and other documentation of residence. Except where the photo-identification was issued by the United States Department of Defense, the other documentation of residence shall show an address identical to that shown on the photo-identification form, such as evidence of currently paid personal property tax or real estate tax, or a current (a) lease, (b) utility or telephone bill, (c) voter registration card, (d) bank check, (e) passport, (f) automobile registration, or (g) hunting or fishing license; other current identification allowed as evidence of residency by Part 178.124 of Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations and ATF Ruling 2001-5; or other documentation of residence determined to be acceptable by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, that corroborates that the prospective purchaser currently resides in Virginia. Where the photo-identification was issued by the Department of Defense, permanent orders assigning the purchaser to a duty post in Virginia, including the Pentagon, shall be the only other required documentation of residence. For the purposes of this section and establishment of residency for firearm purchase, residency shall be deemed to be the permanent duty post of a member of the armed forces. When the photo-identification presented to a dealer by the prospective purchaser is a driver's license or other photo-identification issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, and such identification form contains a date of issue, the dealer shall not, except for a renewed driver's license or other photo-identification issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, sell or otherwise transfer a firearm to the prospective purchaser until 30 days after the date of issue of an original or duplicate driver's license unless the prospective purchaser also presents a copy of his Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles driver's record showing that the original date of issue of the driver's license was more than 30 days prior to the attempted purchase.

In addition, no dealer shall sell, rent, trade or transfer from his inventory any assault firearm to any

57 person who is not a citizen of the United States or who is not a person lawfully admitted for permanent  
58 residence. To establish citizenship or lawful admission for a permanent residence for purposes of  
59 purchasing an assault firearm, a dealer shall require a prospective purchaser to present a certified birth  
60 certificate or a certificate of birth abroad issued by the United States State Department, a certificate of  
61 citizenship or a certificate of naturalization issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration  
62 Services, an unexpired U.S. passport, a United States citizen identification card, a current voter  
63 registration card, a current selective service registration card, or an immigrant visa or other  
64 documentation of status as a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence issued by the United  
65 States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

66 Upon receipt of the request for a criminal history record information check, the State Police shall (1)  
67 review its criminal history record information to determine if the buyer or transferee is prohibited from  
68 possessing or transporting a firearm by state or federal law, (2) inform the dealer if its record indicates  
69 that the buyer or transferee is so prohibited, and (3) provide the dealer with a unique reference number  
70 for that inquiry.

71 2. The State Police shall provide its response to the requesting dealer during the dealer's request, or  
72 by return call without delay. If the criminal history record information check indicates the prospective  
73 purchaser or transferee has a disqualifying criminal record or has been acquitted by reason of insanity  
74 and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services,  
75 the State Police shall have until the end of the dealer's next business day to advise the dealer if its  
76 records indicate the buyer or transferee is prohibited from possessing or transporting a firearm by state  
77 or federal law. If not so advised by the end of the dealer's next business day, a dealer who has fulfilled  
78 the requirements of subdivision 1 of this subsection may immediately complete the sale or transfer and  
79 shall not be deemed in violation of this section with respect to such sale or transfer. In case of  
80 electronic failure or other circumstances beyond the control of the State Police, the dealer shall be  
81 advised immediately of the reason for such delay and be given an estimate of the length of such delay.  
82 After such notification, the State Police shall, as soon as possible but in no event later than the end of  
83 the dealer's next business day, inform the requesting dealer if its records indicate the buyer or transferee  
84 is prohibited from possessing or transporting a firearm by state or federal law. A dealer who fulfills the  
85 requirements of subdivision 1 of this subsection and is told by the State Police that a response will not  
86 be available by the end of the dealer's next business day may immediately complete the sale or transfer  
87 and shall not be deemed in violation of this section with respect to such sale or transfer.

88 3. Except as required by subsection D of § 9.1-132, the State Police shall not maintain records longer  
89 than 30 days, except for multiple handgun transactions for which records shall be maintained for 12  
90 months, from any dealer's request for a criminal history record information check pertaining to a buyer  
91 or transferee who is not found to be prohibited from possessing and transporting a firearm under state or  
92 federal law. However, the log on requests made may be maintained for a period of 12 months, and such  
93 log shall consist of the name of the purchaser, the dealer identification number, the unique approval  
94 number and the transaction date.

95 4. On the last day of the week following the sale or transfer of any firearm, the dealer shall mail or  
96 deliver the written consent form required by subsection A to the Department of State Police. The State  
97 Police shall immediately initiate a search of all available criminal history record information to  
98 determine if the purchaser is prohibited from possessing or transporting a firearm under state or federal  
99 law. If the search discloses information indicating that the buyer or transferee is so prohibited from  
100 possessing or transporting a firearm, the State Police shall inform the chief law-enforcement officer in  
101 the jurisdiction where the sale or transfer occurred and the dealer without delay.

102 5. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, rifles and shotguns may be purchased by  
103 persons who are citizens of the United States or persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence but  
104 residents of other states under the terms of subsections A and B upon furnishing the dealer with proof  
105 of citizenship or status as a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence and one  
106 photo-identification form issued by a governmental agency of the person's state of residence and one  
107 other form of identification determined to be acceptable by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

108 6. For the purposes of this subsection, the phrase "dealer's next business day" shall not include  
109 December 25.

110 C. No dealer shall sell, rent, trade or transfer from his inventory any firearm, except when the  
111 transaction involves a rifle or a shotgun and can be accomplished pursuant to the provisions of  
112 subdivision B 5 to any person who is not a resident of Virginia unless he has first obtained from the  
113 Department of State Police a report indicating that a search of all available criminal history record  
114 information has not disclosed that the person is prohibited from possessing or transporting a firearm  
115 under state or federal law. The dealer shall obtain the required report by mailing or delivering the  
116 written consent form required under subsection A to the State Police within 24 hours of its execution. If  
117 the dealer has complied with the provisions of this subsection and has not received the required report

118 from the State Police within 10 days from the date the written consent form was mailed to the  
119 Department of State Police, he shall not be deemed in violation of this section for thereafter completing  
120 the sale or transfer.

121 D. Nothing herein shall prevent a resident of the Commonwealth, at his option, from buying, renting  
122 or receiving a firearm from a dealer in Virginia by obtaining a criminal history record information check  
123 through the dealer as provided in subsection C.

124 E. If any buyer or transferee is denied the right to purchase a firearm under this section, he may  
125 exercise his right of access to and review and correction of criminal history record information under  
126 § 9.1-132 or institute a civil action as provided in § 9.1-135, provided any such action is initiated within  
127 30 days of such denial.

128 F. Any dealer who willfully and intentionally requests, obtains, or seeks to obtain criminal history  
129 record information under false pretenses, or who willfully and intentionally disseminates or seeks to  
130 disseminate criminal history record information except as authorized in this section shall be guilty of a  
131 Class 2 misdemeanor.

132 G. For purposes of this section:

133 "Actual buyer" means a person who executes the consent form required in subsection B or C, or  
134 other such firearm transaction records as may be required by federal law.

135 "Antique firearm" means:

136 1. Any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of  
137 ignition system) manufactured in or before 1898;

138 2. Any replica of any firearm described in subdivision 1 of this definition if such replica (i) is not  
139 designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition or (ii) uses rimfire  
140 or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United States and that  
141 is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade;

142 3. Any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading pistol that is designed to use  
143 black powder, or a black powder substitute, and that cannot use fixed ammunition. For purposes of this  
144 subdivision, the term "antique firearm" shall not include any weapon that incorporates a firearm frame  
145 or receiver, any firearm that is converted into a muzzle-loading weapon, or any muzzle-loading weapon  
146 that can be readily converted to fire fixed ammunition by replacing the barrel, bolt, breech-block, or any  
147 combination thereof; or

148 4. Any curio or relic as defined in this subsection.

149 "Assault firearm" means any semi-automatic center-fire rifle or pistol which expels single or multiple  
150 projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material and is equipped at the time of the  
151 offense with a magazine which will hold more than 20 rounds of ammunition or designed by the  
152 manufacturer to accommodate a silencer or equipped with a folding stock.

153 "Curios or relics" means firearms that are of special interest to collectors by reason of some quality  
154 other than is associated with firearms intended for sporting use or as offensive or defensive weapons. To  
155 be recognized as curios or relics, firearms must fall within one of the following categories:

156 1. Firearms that were manufactured at least 50 years prior to the current date, which use rimfire or  
157 conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United States and that is  
158 not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade, but not including replicas thereof;

159 2. Firearms that are certified by the curator of a municipal, state, or federal museum that exhibits  
160 firearms to be curios or relics of museum interest; and

161 3. Any other firearms that derive a substantial part of their monetary value from the fact that they  
162 are novel, rare, bizarre, or because of their association with some historical figure, period, or event.  
163 Proof of qualification of a particular firearm under this category may be established by evidence of  
164 present value and evidence that like firearms are not available except as collectors' items, or that the  
165 value of like firearms available in ordinary commercial channels is substantially less.

166 "Dealer" means any person licensed as a dealer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq.

167 "Firearm" means any handgun, shotgun, or rifle that will or is designed to or may readily be  
168 converted to expel single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material.

169 "Handgun" means any pistol or revolver or other firearm originally designed, made and intended to  
170 fire single or multiple projectiles by means of an explosion of a combustible material from one or more  
171 barrels when held in one hand.

172 "Lawfully admitted for permanent residence" means the status of having been lawfully accorded the  
173 privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant in accordance with the  
174 immigration laws, such status not having changed.

175 H. The Department of Criminal Justice Services shall promulgate regulations to ensure the identity,  
176 confidentiality and security of all records and data provided by the Department of State Police pursuant  
177 to this section.

178 I. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) transactions between persons who are licensed

179 as firearms importers or collectors, manufacturers or dealers pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq.; (ii)  
180 purchases by or sales to any law-enforcement officer or agent of the United States, the Commonwealth  
181 or any local government; or (iii) antique firearms, curios or relics.

182 J. The provisions of this section shall not apply to restrict purchase, trade or transfer of firearms by a  
183 resident of Virginia when the resident of Virginia makes such purchase, trade or transfer in another  
184 state, in which case the laws and regulations of that state and the United States governing the purchase,  
185 trade or transfer of firearms shall apply. A National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)  
186 check shall be performed prior to such purchase, trade or transfer of firearms.

187 J1. All licensed firearms dealers shall collect a fee of \$2 for every transaction for which a criminal  
188 history record information check is required pursuant to this section, except that a fee of \$5 shall be  
189 collected for every transaction involving an out-of-state resident. Such fee shall be transmitted to the  
190 Department of State Police by the last day of the month following the sale for deposit in a special fund  
191 for use by the State Police to offset the cost of conducting criminal history record information checks  
192 under the provisions of this section.

193 K. Any person willfully and intentionally making a materially false statement on the consent form  
194 required in subsection B or C or on such firearm transaction records as may be required by federal law,  
195 shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

196 L. Except as provided in § 18.2-308.2:1, any dealer who willfully and intentionally sells, rents, trades  
197 or transfers a firearm in violation of this section shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony.

198 L1. Any person who attempts to solicit, persuade, encourage, or entice any dealer to transfer or  
199 otherwise convey a firearm other than to the actual buyer, as well as any other person who willfully and  
200 intentionally aids or abets such person, shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony. This subsection shall not  
201 apply to a federal law-enforcement officer or a law-enforcement officer as defined in § 9.1-101, in the  
202 performance of his official duties, or other person under his direct supervision.

203 M. Any person who purchases a firearm with the intent to (i) resell or otherwise provide such  
204 firearm to any person who he knows or has reason to believe is ineligible to purchase or otherwise  
205 receive from a dealer a firearm for whatever reason or (ii) transport such firearm out of the  
206 Commonwealth to be resold or otherwise provided to another person who the transferor knows is  
207 ineligible to purchase or otherwise receive a firearm, shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony. However, if the  
208 violation of this subsection involves such a transfer of more than one firearm, the person shall be  
209 sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years.

210 N. Any person who is ineligible to purchase or otherwise receive or possess a firearm in the  
211 Commonwealth who solicits, employs or assists any person in violating subsection M shall be guilty of  
212 a Class 5 felony and shall be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years.

213 O. All driver's licenses issued on or after July 1, 1994, shall carry a letter designation indicating  
214 whether the driver's license is an original, duplicate or renewed driver's license.

215 P. Except as provided in subdivisions 1, 2, and 3 of this subsection, it shall be unlawful for any  
216 person who is not a licensed firearms dealer to purchase more than one handgun within any 30-day  
217 period. A violation of this subsection shall be punishable as a Class 4 misdemeanor.

218 1. Purchases in excess of one handgun within a 30-day period may be made upon completion of an  
219 enhanced background check, as described herein, by special application to the Department of State  
220 Police listing the number and type of handguns to be purchased and transferred for lawful business or  
221 personal use, in a collector series, for collections, as a bulk purchase from estate sales and for similar  
222 purposes. Such applications shall be signed under oath by the applicant on forms provided by the  
223 Department of State Police, shall state the purpose for the purchase above the limit, and shall require  
224 satisfactory proof of residency and identity. Such application shall be in addition to the firearms sales  
225 report required by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). The Superintendent of State  
226 Police shall promulgate regulations, pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), for  
227 the implementation of an application process for purchases of handguns above the limit.

228 Upon being satisfied that these requirements have been met, the Department of State Police shall  
229 forthwith issue to the applicant a nontransferable certificate, which shall be valid for seven days from  
230 the date of issue. The certificate shall be surrendered to the dealer by the prospective purchaser prior to  
231 the consummation of such sale and shall be kept on file at the dealer's place of business for inspection  
232 as provided in § 54.1-4201 for a period of not less than two years. Upon request of any local  
233 law-enforcement agency, and pursuant to its regulations, the Department of State Police may certify such  
234 local law-enforcement agency to serve as its agent to receive applications and, upon authorization by the  
235 Department of State Police, issue certificates forthwith pursuant to this subsection. Applications and  
236 certificates issued under this subsection shall be maintained as records as provided in subdivision B 3.  
237 The Department of State Police shall make available to local law-enforcement agencies all records  
238 concerning certificates issued pursuant to this subsection and all records provided for in subdivision B 3.

239 2. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to:

- 240 a. A law-enforcement agency;
- 241 b. An agency duly authorized to perform law-enforcement duties;
- 242 c. State and local correctional facilities;
- 243 d. A private security company licensed to do business within the Commonwealth;
- 244 e. The purchase of antique firearms as herein defined;
- 245 f. A person whose handgun is stolen or irretrievably lost who deems it essential that such handgun
- 246 be replaced immediately. Such person may purchase another handgun, even if the person has previously
- 247 purchased a handgun within a 30-day period, provided (i) the person provides the firearms dealer with a
- 248 copy of the official police report or a summary thereof, on forms provided by the Department of State
- 249 Police, from the law-enforcement agency that took the report of the lost or stolen handgun; (ii) the
- 250 official police report or summary thereof contains the name and address of the handgun owner, the
- 251 description of the handgun, the location of the loss or theft, the date of the loss or theft, and the date
- 252 the loss or theft was reported to the law-enforcement agency; and (iii) the date of the loss or theft as
- 253 reflected on the official police report or summary thereof occurred within 30 days of the person's
- 254 attempt to replace the handgun. The firearms dealer shall attach a copy of the official police report or
- 255 summary thereof to the original copy of the Virginia firearms transaction report completed for the
- 256 transaction and retain it for the period prescribed by the Department of State Police;
- 257 g. A person who trades in a handgun at the same time he makes a handgun purchase and as a part of
- 258 the same transaction, provided that no more than one transaction of this nature is completed per day;
- 259 h. A person who holds a valid Virginia permit to carry a concealed handgun;
- 260 i. A person who purchases a handgun in a private sale. For purposes of this subdivision, a private
- 261 sale means purchase from a person who makes occasional sales, exchanges or purchases of firearms for
- 262 the enhancement of a personal collection of curios or relics as herein defined, or who sells all or part of
- 263 such collection of curios and relics; or
- 264 j. A law-enforcement officer. For purposes of this subdivision, a law-enforcement officer means any
- 265 employee of a police department or sheriff's office that is part of or administered by the Commonwealth
- 266 or any political subdivision thereof, and who is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime
- 267 and the enforcement of the penal, traffic or highway laws of the Commonwealth.
- 268 3. For the purposes of this subsection, "purchase" shall not include the exchange or replacement of a
- 269 handgun by a seller for a handgun purchased from such seller by the same person seeking the exchange
- 270 or replacement within the 30-day period immediately preceding the date of exchange or replacement.