

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.2:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to transfer of assault*
3 *weapon; proof of citizenship.*

4
5 Approved

[H 810]

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

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

8 **§ 18.2-308.2:2. Criminal history record information check required for the transfer of certain**
9 **firearms.**

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

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

57 license was more than 30 days prior to the attempted purchase.

58 In addition, no dealer shall sell, rent, trade, or transfer from his inventory any assault firearm to any
 59 person who is not a citizen of the United States or who is not a person lawfully admitted for permanent
 60 residence. To establish citizenship or lawful admission for a permanent residence for purposes of
 61 purchasing an assault firearm, a dealer shall require a prospective purchaser to present a certified birth
 62 certificate or a certificate of birth abroad issued by the United States State Department, a certificate of
 63 citizenship or a certificate of naturalization issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration
 64 Services, an unexpired U.S. passport, a United States citizen identification card, a current voter
 65 registration card, a current selective service registration card, or an immigrant visa or other
 66 documentation of status as a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence issued by the United
 67 States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

written consent form required under subsection A to the State Police within 24 hours of its execution. If the dealer has complied with the provisions of this subsection and has not received the required report from the State Police within 10 days from the date the written consent form was mailed to the Department of State Police, he shall not be deemed in violation of this section for thereafter completing the sale or transfer.

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

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

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

G. For purposes of this section:

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

"Antique firearm" means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

179 to this section.

180 I. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) transactions between persons who are licensed
181 as firearms importers or collectors, manufacturers or dealers pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq.; (ii)
182 purchases by or sales to any law-enforcement officer or agent of the United States, the Commonwealth
183 or any local government, or any campus police officer appointed under Chapter 17 (§ 23-232 et seq.) of
184 Title 23; or (iii) antique firearms, curios or relics.

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

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

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

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

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

206 M. Any person who purchases a firearm with the intent to (i) resell or otherwise provide such
207 firearm to any person who he knows or has reason to believe is ineligible to purchase or otherwise
208 receive from a dealer a firearm for whatever reason or (ii) transport such firearm out of the
209 Commonwealth to be resold or otherwise provided to another person who the transferor knows is
210 ineligible to purchase or otherwise receive a firearm, shall be guilty of a Class 4 felony and sentenced to
211 a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of one year. However, if the violation of this subsection
212 involves such a transfer of more than one firearm, the person shall be sentenced to a mandatory
213 minimum term of imprisonment of five years. The prohibitions of this subsection shall not apply to the
214 purchase of a firearm by a person for the lawful use, possession, or transport thereof, pursuant to
215 § 18.2-308.7, by his child, grandchild, or individual for whom he is the legal guardian if such child,
216 grandchild, or individual is ineligible, solely because of his age, to purchase a firearm.

217 N. Any person who is ineligible to purchase or otherwise receive or possess a firearm in the
218 Commonwealth who solicits, employs or assists any person in violating subsection M shall be guilty of
219 a Class 4 felony and shall be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years.

220 O. Any mandatory minimum sentence imposed under this section shall be served consecutively with
221 any other sentence.

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

224 Q. Prior to selling, renting, trading, or transferring any firearm owned by the dealer but not in his
225 inventory to any other person, a dealer may require such other person to consent to have the dealer
226 obtain criminal history record information to determine if such other person is prohibited from
227 possessing or transporting a firearm by state or federal law. The Department of State Police shall
228 establish policies and procedures in accordance with 28 C.F.R. § 25.6 to permit such determinations to
229 be made by the Department of State Police, and the processes established for making such
230 determinations shall conform to the provisions of this section.