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**HOUSE BILL NO. 270****AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**(Proposed by the House Committee on Public Safety  
on February 2, 2024)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Reid)

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-915.5, 18.2-308.2:2, and 18.2-308.2:5 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 52 a chapter numbered 14, consisting of sections numbered 52-55 through 52-58, relating to sale, transfer, etc., of firearms; Virginia Assault Firearm Buy-Back Program and Fund established; penalties.*

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

**1. That §§ 15.2-915.5, 18.2-308.2:2, and 18.2-308.2:5 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 52 a chapter numbered 14, consisting of sections numbered 52-55 through 52-58, as follows:**

**§ 15.2-915.5. Disposition of firearms acquired by local law-enforcement agencies or localities.**

A. No locality or agent of such locality *local law-enforcement agency, as that term is defined in § 52-55*, may participate in any program in which individuals are given a thing of value provided by another individual or other entity in exchange for surrendering a firearm to the *local law-enforcement agency, locality, or agent of such locality unless the governing body of the locality has enacted an ordinance, pursuant to § 15.2-1425, authorizing the participation of the locality or agent of such locality in such program the local law-enforcement agency participates in the Virginia Assault Firearm Buy-Back Program as authorized by the provisions in Chapter 14 (§ 52-55 et seq.) of Title 52.*

B. Any ordinance enacted pursuant to this section shall require that any firearm received as part of the Virginia Assault Firearm Buy-Back Program as authorized by the provisions in Chapter 14 (§ 52-55 et seq.) of Title 52, except a firearm of the type defined in § 18.2-288 or 18.2-299 or a firearm the transfer for which is prohibited by federal law, shall be destroyed by the *local law-enforcement agency or locality unless the person surrendering the firearm requests in writing that the firearm be offered for sale by public auction or sealed bids to a person licensed as a dealer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq.* Notice of the date, time, and place of any sale conducted pursuant to this subsection shall be given by advertisement in at least two newspapers published and having general circulation in the Commonwealth, at least one of which shall have general circulation in the locality in which the property to be sold is located. At least 30 days shall elapse between publication of the notice and the auction or the date on which sealed bids will be opened. Any firearm remaining in possession of the locality or agent of the locality after attempts to sell at public auction or by sealed bids shall be disposed of in a manner the locality deems proper, which may include destruction of the firearm or, subject to any registration requirements of federal law, sale of the firearm to a licensed dealer.

**§ 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 a misdemeanor offense listed in § 18.2-308.1:8 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 if committed by an adult would be a felony or a misdemeanor listed in § 18.2-308.1:8; (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; (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, 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, or been the subject of a temporary detention order pursuant to § 37.2-809 and subsequently agreed to a voluntary admission pursuant to § 37.2-805; and (iv) is the applicant subject to an emergency substantial risk order or a substantial risk order entered pursuant to § 19.2-152.13 or 19.2-152.14 and prohibited from purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:6 or any substantially similar law of any other jurisdiction.

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60 B. 1. No dealer shall sell, rent, trade, or transfer from his inventory any such firearm to any other  
61 person who is a resident of Virginia until ~~he has~~ (i) *he has* obtained written consent and the other  
62 information on the consent form specified in subsection A, and provided the Department of State Police  
63 with the name, birth date, gender, race, citizenship, and social security and/or any other identification  
64 number and the number of firearms by category intended to be sold, rented, traded, or transferred ~~and~~;  
65 (ii) *he has* requested criminal history record information by a telephone call to or other communication  
66 authorized by the State Police and is authorized by subdivision 2 to complete the sale or other such  
67 transfer; *and (iii) at least five days have elapsed from the time the prospective purchaser completed the*  
68 *consent form specified in subsection A.* To establish personal identification and residence in Virginia for  
69 purposes of this section, a dealer must require any prospective purchaser to present one  
70 photo-identification form issued by a governmental agency of the Commonwealth or by the United  
71 States Department of Defense or a special identification card without a photograph issued pursuant to  
72 § 46.2-345.2 that demonstrates that the prospective purchaser resides in Virginia. For the purposes of  
73 this section and establishment of residency for firearm purchase, residency of a member of the armed  
74 forces shall include both the state in which the member's permanent duty post is located and any nearby  
75 state in which the member resides and from which he commutes to the permanent duty post. A member  
76 of the armed forces whose photo identification issued by the Department of Defense does not have a  
77 Virginia address may establish his Virginia residency with such photo identification and either  
78 permanent orders assigning the purchaser to a duty post, including the Pentagon, in Virginia or the  
79 purchaser's Leave and Earnings Statement. When the identification presented to a dealer by the  
80 prospective purchaser is a driver's license or other photo identification issued by the Department of  
81 Motor Vehicles or a special identification card without a photograph issued pursuant to § 46.2-345.2,  
82 and such identification form or card contains a date of issue, the dealer shall not, except for a renewed  
83 driver's license or other photo identification issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles or a renewed  
84 special identification card without a photograph issued pursuant to § 46.2-345.2, sell or otherwise  
85 transfer a firearm to the prospective purchaser until 30 days after the date of issue of an original or  
86 duplicate driver's license or special identification card without a photograph unless the prospective  
87 purchaser also presents a copy of his Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles driver's record showing  
88 that the original date of issue of the driver's license was more than 30 days prior to the attempted  
89 purchase.

90 In addition, no dealer shall sell, rent, trade, or transfer from his inventory any assault firearm to any  
91 person who is not a citizen of the United States or who is not a person lawfully admitted for permanent  
92 residence.

93 Upon receipt of the request for a criminal history record information check, the State Police shall (a)  
94 review its criminal history record information to determine if the buyer or transferee is prohibited from  
95 possessing or transporting a firearm by state or federal law, (b) inform the dealer if its record indicates  
96 that the buyer or transferee is so prohibited, and (c) provide the dealer with a unique reference number  
97 for that inquiry.

98 2. The State Police shall provide its response to the requesting dealer during the dealer's request or  
99 by return call without delay. A dealer who fulfills the requirements of subdivision 1 and is told by the  
100 State Police that a response will not be available by the end of the dealer's fifth business day may  
101 ~~immediately~~ complete the sale or transfer *after at least five days have elapsed from the time the*  
102 *prospective purchaser completed the consent form specified in subsection A* and shall not be deemed in  
103 violation of this section with respect to such sale or transfer.

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

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

118 5. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, rifles and shotguns may be purchased by  
119 persons who are citizens of the United States or persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence but  
120 residents of other states under the terms of subsections A and B upon furnishing the dealer with one  
121 photo-identification form issued by a governmental agency of the person's state of residence and one

other form of identification determined to be acceptable by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

6. For the purposes of this subsection, the phrase "dealer's fifth business day" does not include December 25.

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

To establish personal identification and dual resident eligibility for purposes of this subsection, a dealer shall require any prospective purchaser to present one photo-identification form issued by a governmental agency of the prospective purchaser's state of legal residence and other documentation of dual residence within the Commonwealth. The other documentation of dual residence in the Commonwealth may include (i) 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; (ii) other current identification allowed as evidence of residency by 27 C.F.R. § 178.124 and ATF Ruling 2001-5; or (iii) other documentation of residence determined to be acceptable by the Department of Criminal Justice Services and that corroborates that the prospective purchaser currently resides in Virginia.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

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

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

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

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

192 G. The Department of Criminal Justice Services shall promulgate regulations to ensure the identity,  
193 confidentiality, and security of all records and data provided by the Department of State Police pursuant  
194 to this section.

195 H. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) transactions between persons who are licensed  
196 as firearms importers or collectors, manufacturers or dealers pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq.; (ii)  
197 purchases by or sales to any law-enforcement officer or agent of the United States, the Commonwealth  
198 or any local government, or any campus police officer appointed under Article 3 (§ 23.1-809 et seq.) of  
199 Chapter 8 of Title 23.1; or (iii) antique firearms or curios or relics.

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

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

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

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

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

221 M. Any person who purchases a firearm with the intent to (i) resell or otherwise provide such  
222 firearm to any person who he knows or has reason to believe is ineligible to purchase or otherwise  
223 receive from a dealer a firearm for whatever reason or (ii) transport such firearm out of the  
224 Commonwealth to be resold or otherwise provided to another person who the transferor knows is  
225 ineligible to purchase or otherwise receive a firearm, shall be guilty of a Class 4 felony and sentenced to  
226 a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of one year. However, if the violation of this subsection  
227 involves such a transfer of more than one firearm, the person shall be sentenced to a mandatory  
228 minimum term of imprisonment of five years. The prohibitions of this subsection shall not apply to the  
229 purchase of a firearm by a person for the lawful use, possession, or transport thereof, pursuant to  
230 § 18.2-308.7, by his child, grandchild, or individual for whom he is the legal guardian if such child,  
231 grandchild, or individual is ineligible, solely because of his age, to purchase a firearm.

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

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

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

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

determinations shall conform to the provisions of this section.

R. Except as provided in subdivisions 1 and 2, it shall be unlawful for any person who is not a licensed firearms dealer to purchase more than one handgun within any 30-day period. For the purposes of this subsection, "purchase" does not include the exchange or replacement of a handgun by a seller for a handgun purchased from such seller by the same person seeking the exchange or replacement within the 30-day period immediately preceding the date of exchange or replacement. A violation of this subsection is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

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

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

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

- a. A law-enforcement agency;
- b. An agency duly authorized to perform law-enforcement duties;
- c. A state or local correctional facility;
- d. A private security company licensed to do business within the Commonwealth;
- e. The purchase of antique firearms;
- f. A person whose handgun is stolen or irretrievably lost who deems it essential that such handgun be replaced immediately. Such person may purchase another handgun, even if the person has previously purchased a handgun within a 30-day period, provided that (i) the person provides the firearms dealer with a copy of the official police report or a summary thereof, on forms provided by the Department of State Police, from the law-enforcement agency that took the report of the lost or stolen handgun; (ii) the official police report or summary thereof contains the name and address of the handgun owner, a description of the handgun, the location of the loss or theft, the date of the loss or theft, and the date the loss or theft was reported to the law-enforcement agency; and (iii) the date of the loss or theft as reflected on the official police report or summary thereof occurred within 30 days of the person's attempt to replace the handgun. The firearms dealer shall attach a copy of the official police report or summary thereof to the original copy of the Virginia firearms transaction report completed for the transaction and retain it for the period prescribed by the Department of State Police;
- g. A person who trades in a handgun at the same time he makes a handgun purchase and as a part of the same transaction, provided that no more than one transaction of this nature is completed per day;
- h. A person who holds a valid Virginia permit to carry a concealed handgun;
- i. A person who purchases a handgun in a private sale. For purposes of this subdivision, "private sale" means a purchase from a person who makes occasional sales, exchanges, or purchases of firearms for the enhancement of a personal collection of curios or relics or who sells all or part of such collection of curios and relics; or
- j. A law-enforcement officer. For purposes of this subdivision, "law-enforcement officer" means any employee of a police department or sheriff's office that is part of or administered by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof and who is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of the Commonwealth.

**§ 18.2-308.2:5. Criminal history record information check required to sell firearm; penalty.**

A. No person shall sell a firearm for money, goods, services, or anything else of value unless (i) he

306 has obtained verification from a licensed dealer in firearms that information on the prospective purchaser  
307 has been submitted for a criminal history record information check as set out in § 18.2-308.2:2 and that  
308 a determination has been received from the Department of State Police that the prospective purchaser is  
309 not prohibited under state or federal law from possessing a firearm or such sale is specifically exempted  
310 by state or federal law *and (ii) at least five days have elapsed from the time the prospective purchaser*  
311 *completed the written consent form provided by the Department of State Police to have a designated*  
312 *licensed dealer obtain criminal history record information.* The Department of State Police shall provide  
313 a means by which sellers may obtain from designated licensed dealers the approval or denial of firearm  
314 transfer requests, based on criminal history record information checks. The processes established shall  
315 conform to the provisions of § 18.2-308.2:2, and the definitions and provisions of § 18.2-308.2:2  
316 regarding criminal history record information checks shall apply to this section *mutatis mutandis*. The  
317 designated dealer shall collect and disseminate the fees prescribed in § 18.2-308.2:2 as required by that  
318 section. The dealer may charge and retain an additional fee not to exceed \$15 for obtaining a criminal  
319 history record information check on behalf of a seller.

320 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A and unless otherwise prohibited by state or federal  
321 law, a person may sell a firearm to another person if:

322 1. The sale of a firearm is to an authorized representative of the Commonwealth or any subdivision  
323 thereof as part of an authorized voluntary gun buy-back or give-back program;

324 2. The sale occurs at a firearms show, as defined in § 54.1-4200, and the seller has received a  
325 determination from the Department of State Police that the purchaser is not prohibited under state or  
326 federal law from possessing a firearm in accordance with § 54.1-4201.2; or

327 3. The sale of a firearm is conducted pursuant to § 59.1-148.3, with the exception of a sale  
328 conducted pursuant to subsection C of § 59.1-148.3.

329 C. Any person who willfully and intentionally sells a firearm to another person without obtaining  
330 verification *or before at least five days have elapsed since the time the prospective purchaser completed*  
331 *the written consent form provided by the Department of State Police to have a designated licensed*  
332 *dealer obtain criminal history record information* in accordance with this section is guilty of a Class 1  
333 misdemeanor.

334 D. Any person who willfully and intentionally purchases a firearm from another person without  
335 obtaining verification *or before at least five days have elapsed since the time the prospective purchaser*  
336 *completed the written consent form provided by the Department of State Police to have a designated*  
337 *licensed dealer obtain criminal history record information* in accordance with this section is guilty of a  
338 Class 1 misdemeanor.

#### 339 CHAPTER 14.

#### 340 VIRGINIA ASSAULT FIREARM BUY-BACK PROGRAM AND FUND.

#### 341 § 52-55. Definitions.

342 *As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:*

343 *"Assault firearm" means the same as that term is defined in § 18.2-308.2:2.*

344 *"Fund" means the Virginia Assault Firearm Buy-Back Fund.*

345 *"Local law-enforcement agency" means any local police department or sheriff's office that is a part*  
346 *of or administered by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof.*

347 *"Program" means the Virginia Assault Firearm Buy-Back Program.*

#### 348 § 52-56. Virginia Assault Firearm Buy-Back Program established; report.

349 A. The Department of State Police (the Department) shall develop policies for the establishment of  
350 uniform standards for the creation of the Virginia Assault Firearm Buy-Back Program. The Department  
351 shall (i) inform local law-enforcement agencies of the policies and procedures to be used for the  
352 Program; (ii) provide guidelines to participating local law-enforcement agencies on implementation of  
353 the Program, including (a) designating when and where a person may surrender an assault firearm; (b)  
354 the handling, storage, and disposal of surrendered assault firearms; and (c) the requirements for  
355 reporting to the Department any information about surrendered assault firearms; (iii) establish a  
356 formula for determining the monetary incentive for a surrendered assault firearm that shall offer the  
357 person surrendering such assault firearm an amount equal to the original purchase price, including  
358 taxes and any verifiable delivery fees, plus an additional 10 percent of the original purchase price; (iv)  
359 establish guidelines for determining the buy-back amount to be offered when the original purchase price  
360 cannot be identified with documentation; and (v) establish requirements for remitting the funds to the  
361 person surrendering an assault firearm within 30 calendar days, including a requirement that such  
362 person shall receive an additional \$100 for every month the disbursement is delayed.

363 B. The establishment of the Program by a local law-enforcement agency is voluntary, and nothing in  
364 this chapter shall be construed to be a mandate that a local law-enforcement agency establish or  
365 participate in the Program.

366 C. The Department shall submit a report to the General Assembly on or before November 1 each  
367 year on the Program. The report shall include the following: (i) the number of local law-enforcement

agencies that participate in the Program or have established a local Program, (ii) the number of assault firearms that have been bought back through the Program, and (iii) a summary on how the moneys in the Fund have been used for development and implementation of the Program.

**§ 52-57. Participation by a local law-enforcement agency; establishing a local Program.**

A local law-enforcement agency may establish a local Program, and a person may surrender an assault firearm to the participating local law-enforcement agency in accordance with § 52-56. The identity of any person who surrenders an assault firearm pursuant to this chapter shall be kept confidential.

**§ 52-58. Virginia Assault Firearm Buy-Back Fund established.**

There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia Assault Firearm Buy-Back Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of development and implementation of the Program, including assisting local law-enforcement agencies with implementing the Program within such agencies' localities. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Superintendent.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, Special Session I, requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.