

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3285

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2019

Mr. RASKIN (for himself and Mrs. HAYES) 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 2017, 91 percent of firearm homicides in
9 the United States in which firearm type was speci-
10 fied were committed with handguns.

1 (2) Research by top national experts shows that
2 handgun purchaser licensing laws are associated
3 with significant reductions in firearm-related homi-
4 cides. Research on the effects of Connecticut’s adop-
5 tion of a handgun purchaser licensing law in 1995
6 was associated with a 40-percent reduction in the
7 rate of firearm homicide and a 15-percent reduction
8 in firearm suicide rates during the first 10 years the
9 law was in place. Published research has shown that
10 Missouri’s repeal of its handgun purchaser licensing
11 law in 2007 was associated with an increase in fire-
12 arm homicide rates in the state of 27 percent and
13 a 16-percent increase in suicides committed with
14 firearms.

15 (3) In States which have had effective handgun
16 purchaser licensing laws for decades, such as Con-
17 necticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York,
18 the vast majority of guns traced to crimes originated
19 in other States, which supports the need for hand-
20 gun purchaser licensing laws in every State.

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act—

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

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

5 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED FOR HANDGUN LI-**
6 **CENSING.**

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

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

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

24 (1) a description of the law that the applicant
25 has enacted to require a license for any purchase of

1 a handgun including a description of any other ex-
2 emptions to such law; and

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

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

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

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

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

19 (4) Such an individual must submit to a back-
20 ground investigation, and a criminal history check,
21 in connection with their application, as established
22 by the State, which background investigation and
23 criminal history check ensure, at a minimum, that
24 such individual is not prohibited from possessing a

1 firearm under section 922(g) of title 18, United
2 States Code.

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

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

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

13 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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