

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3544

To amend title 18, United States Code, to require licenses to acquire or receive firearms, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. KIM, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to require licenses to acquire or receive firearms, 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 “Federal Firearm Li-
5 censing Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LICENSE FOR THE PURCHASE AND POSSESSION OF**
 2 **FIREARMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United
 4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 5 lowing:

6 **“§ 935. License for the acquisition, receipt, and pos-**
 7 **session of firearms**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
 9 (d), it shall be unlawful for any individual to purchase,
 10 receive, or possess a firearm unless the individual has a
 11 valid Federal firearm purchasing license.

12 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL LICENSE TO
 13 PURCHASE, RECEIVE, OR POSSESS FIREARMS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
 15 establish a Federal system for issuing a Federal fire-
 16 arm purchasing license to eligible individuals for
 17 firearms transferred to such individual or possessed
 18 by such individual.

19 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The system established
 20 under paragraph (1) shall require that—

21 “(A) an individual shall be eligible to re-
 22 ceive such a license if the individual—

23 “(i) has completed training in fire-
 24 arms safety, including—

1 “(I) a written test, to dem-
2 onstrate knowledge of applicable fire-
3 arms laws; and

4 “(II) hands-on testing, including
5 firing testing, to demonstrate safe use
6 and sufficient accuracy of a firearm;
7 and

8 “(ii) as part of the process for apply-
9 ing for such a license—

10 “(I) has submitted to a back-
11 ground investigation and criminal his-
12 tory check of the individual;

13 “(II) has submitted proof of
14 identity;

15 “(III) has submitted the finger-
16 prints of the individual; and

17 “(IV) has submitted identifying
18 information on the firearm that the
19 person intends to obtain, including the
20 make, model, and serial number, and
21 the identity of the firearm seller or
22 transferor;

23 “(B) a license issued under the system is
24 available at a designated local office, which
25 shall be located in both urban and rural areas;

1 “(C) the Attorney General shall issue or
2 deny a license under this section not later than
3 30 days after the date on which the application
4 for such license is received;

5 “(D) each license issued under this section
6 shall be valid for the purchase of a single fire-
7 arm, which shall be purchased not later than 30
8 days after the date on which the license is
9 issued;

10 “(E) a license issued under the system
11 shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the
12 date on which the license was issued; and

13 “(F) the Attorney General shall provide
14 notice of an application for a license under this
15 section to the relevant State and local officials.

16 “(3) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Before issuing a li-
18 cense under this section, the Attorney General
19 shall—

20 “(i) conduct a background investiga-
21 tion on the applicant; and

22 “(ii) deny any license if receipt or
23 transfer of a firearm would violate sub-
24 section (d), (g), or (n) of section 922 or
25 any provision of State law.

1 “(B) POSES A DANGER OF BODILY IN-
2 JURY.—

3 “(i) INFORMATION FROM STATE AND
4 LOCAL OFFICIALS.—After receiving the no-
5 tice described in paragraph (2)(F), rel-
6 evant State and local officials may submit
7 to the Attorney General information dem-
8 onstrating that the individual poses a sig-
9 nificant danger of bodily injury to self or
10 others by possessing, purchasing, or receiv-
11 ing a firearm.

12 “(ii) DENIAL.—

13 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney
14 General may deny a license under this
15 section if the Attorney General deter-
16 mines that the applicant poses a sig-
17 nificant danger of bodily injury to self
18 or others by possessing, purchasing,
19 or receiving a firearm, after exam-
20 ining factors the Attorney General
21 considers are relevant to the deter-
22 mination, including—

23 “(aa) history of threats or
24 acts of violence toward self or
25 others;

1 “(bb) history of use, at-
2 tempted use, or threatened use of
3 physical force by the applicant
4 against another person;

5 “(cc) whether the applicant
6 is the subject of or has violated a
7 domestic violence or stalking re-
8 straining order or protection
9 order;

10 “(dd) any prior arrest, pend-
11 ing charge, or conviction for a
12 violent or serious crime or dis-
13 orderly persons offense, stalking
14 offense, or domestic violence of-
15 fense;

16 “(ee) any prior arrest, pend-
17 ing charge, or conviction for an
18 offense involving cruelty to ani-
19 mals;

20 “(ff) history of drug or alco-
21 hol abuse or involvement in drug
22 trafficking;

23 “(gg) any recent acquisition
24 of firearms, ammunition, or other
25 deadly weapons;

1 “(hh) involvement in fire-
2 arms trafficking or unlawful fire-
3 arms transfers; and

4 “(ii) history of unsafe stor-
5 age or handling of firearms.

6 “(II) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—An ap-
7 plicant denied a license under sub-
8 clause (I) may file an action in the
9 appropriate district court of the
10 United States for seeking review of
11 the denial.

12 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
13 in this paragraph may be construed to modify
14 any other requirement for a background inves-
15 tigation relating to the acquisition or receipt of
16 a firearm in effect on the day before the date
17 of enactment of this section.

18 “(4) REVOCATION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General
20 shall revoke a license issued under this section
21 if the Attorney General determines that—

22 “(i) the licensee poses a significant
23 danger of bodily injury to self or others by
24 possessing, purchasing, or receiving a fire-
25 arm; or

1 “(ii) after a regular background inves-
2 tigation conducted by the Attorney Gen-
3 eral, the receipt or transfer of a firearm
4 would violate subsection (d), (g), or (n) of
5 section 922 or any provision of State law.

6 “(B) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A
7 HEARING.—

8 “(i) NOTICE.—Upon determining that
9 the licensee should have their license re-
10 voked under subparagraph (A), the Attor-
11 ney General shall provide notice to the li-
12 censee and to relevant State and local offi-
13 cials of the determination.

14 “(ii) HEARING.—For revocations
15 under subparagraph (A)(i), the Attorney
16 General shall provide a licensee an oppor-
17 tunity for a hearing in the appropriate dis-
18 trict court of the United States not later
19 than 30 days after the date on which a li-
20 cense is revoked under this paragraph to
21 appeal the revocation.

22 “(C) PROCEDURES.—The Attorney Gen-
23 eral shall establish procedures to ensure that
24 any firearm is removed from any individual

1 when the individual's license is revoked under
2 this paragraph.

3 “(D) RETURN OF FIREARMS.—A firearm
4 removed under the procedures established under
5 subparagraph (C) may be returned to the indi-
6 vidual only if the individual's license is rein-
7 stated.

8 “(5) RENEWAL.—The Attorney General—

9 “(A) shall establish procedures for the re-
10 newal of a license that requires that the appli-
11 cant satisfies the requirements described in
12 paragraph (2); and

13 “(B) may develop procedures and proc-
14 esses to consolidate renewal applications for in-
15 dividuals with multiple firearm purchasing li-
16 censes.

17 “(6) ENROLLMENT IN RAP BACK.—The Attor-
18 ney General shall enroll each individual who is
19 issued a license under this section in the Rap Back
20 service.

21 “(c) RECORDKEEPING.—It shall be unlawful for any
22 individual to sell or otherwise dispose of a firearm to a
23 person unless the individual reports the transaction to the
24 Attorney General not later than 3 business days after the
25 date on which the firearm is sold or transferred, which

1 shall include identifying information on the firearm seller
 2 and on the firearm transferee, including the make, model,
 3 and serial number.

4 “(d) STATE LICENSES.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not
 6 apply to an individual in a State if the Attorney
 7 General determines that the State has a process for
 8 issuing a State firearm license to eligible individuals
 9 in the State with substantially similar requirements
 10 to those described in subsection (b).

11 “(e) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General may pro-
 12 mulgate regulations that the Attorney General determines
 13 are necessary to carry out this section.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 15 for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 16 lowing:

“935. License for the acquisition or receipt of firearms.”.

17 **SEC. 3. POINT-OF-SALE BACKGROUND CHECK.**

18 Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is
 19 amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(aa) POINT-OF-SALE BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any
 22 person who is not a licensed importer, licensed man-
 23 ufacturer, or licensed dealer to transfer a firearm to
 24 any other person who is not so licensed, unless a li-
 25 censed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed

1 dealer has first taken possession of the firearm for
2 the purpose of complying with subsection (t).

3 “(2) COMPLIANCE.—Upon taking possession of
4 a firearm under paragraph (1), a licensee shall com-
5 ply with all requirements of this chapter as if the li-
6 censee were transferring the firearm from the inven-
7 tory of the licensee to the unlicensed transferee.

8 “(3) RETURN.—If a transfer of a firearm de-
9 scribed in paragraph (1) will not be completed for
10 any reason after a licensee takes possession of the
11 firearm (including because the transfer of the fire-
12 arm to, or receipt of the firearm by, the transferee
13 would violate this chapter), the return of the firearm
14 to the transferor by the licensee shall not constitute
15 the transfer of a firearm for purposes of this chap-
16 ter.”.

17 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER TO CERTAIN UNLI-**
18 **CENSED PERSONS.**

19 Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, as
20 amended by section 3 of this Act, is amended by adding
21 at the end the following:

22 “(bb) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER TO CERTAIN UN-
23 LICENSED PERSONS.—It shall be unlawful for any person
24 to—

1 “(1) sell or otherwise dispose of a firearm to
2 any person if such person does not have a license
3 issued under section 935 or a substantially similar
4 State law, as determined by the Attorney General,
5 during the previous 30 days; or

6 “(2) fail to report to the relevant law enforce-
7 ment agencies the sale or disposal described in para-
8 graph (1).”.

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