

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1625

5 By: Representatives Andrews, Womack, Crawford, Duffield, Gonzales, Richmond, Rye, Watson  
6 By: Senator Gilmore  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE AND ISSUE A DRIVER'S LICENSE WITH A  
10 FIREARM DESIGNATION; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE  
11 FEES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES.  
13  
14

## Subtitle

15 TO CREATE AND ISSUE A DRIVER'S LICENSE  
16 WITH A FIREARM DESIGNATION; AND TO AMEND  
17 THE LAW CONCERNING THE FEES FOR THE  
18 ISSUANCE OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE.  
19  
20  
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
23

24 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.  
25 The General Assembly finds that the people of Arkansas have certain  
26 inalienable rights that are protected and guaranteed by the United States  
27 Constitution and the Arkansas Constitution, and among those rights is the  
28 right to keep and bear arms for their defense of persons, property, and  
29 against tyrannical encroachment.  
30

31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-16-701, concerning the application for a  
32 driver's license, instruction permit, and restricted permit, is amended to  
33 add an additional subsection to read as follows:

34 (g)(1) Every application for a driver's license or renewal by a person  
35 eighteen (18) or more years of age shall be accompanied by an instant federal  
36 criminal background check as provided in § 27-16-817.



1           (2) The instant federal criminal background check shall be  
 2 conducted as established by § 27-16-817 at no additional cost to the  
 3 applicant.

4           (3) The Office of Driver Services shall provide a form giving a  
 5 person the option to opt out of the instant federal criminal background check  
 6 requirement under subdivision (g)(1) of this section.

7  
 8           SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 27-16-801(a)(1), concerning the issuance of  
 9 licenses generally, is amended to read as follows:

10           (a)(1)(A) In a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the Department of  
 11 Finance and Administration, the Office of Driver Services shall issue:

12                           (i) Except as provided in ~~subdivision~~ subdivisions  
 13 (a)(1)(B) and (a)(1)(C) of this section, a Class D license or a Class M  
 14 license to each qualified applicant eighteen (18) or more years of age, for a  
 15 period of eight (8) years, upon payment of ~~twenty-four dollars (\$24.00)~~  
 16 twenty-six dollars (\$26.00);

17                           (ii) An intermediate Class D license or an  
 18 intermediate Class M license to each applicant between sixteen (16) and  
 19 eighteen (18) years of age, for a period of up to two (2) years, upon payment  
 20 of ~~twelve dollars (\$12.00)~~ fourteen dollars (\$14.00);

21                           (iii) A learner's Class D license to each applicant  
 22 between fourteen (14) and sixteen (16) years of age, for a period of up to  
 23 two (2) years, upon payment of ~~twelve dollars (\$12.00)~~ fourteen dollars  
 24 (\$14.00); and

25                           (iv) A Class MD license to each qualified applicant,  
 26 for a period of not more than two (2) years, upon payment of ~~two dollars~~  
 27 ~~(\$2.00)~~ four dollars (\$4.00).

28                           (B) A Except as provided in subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this  
 29 section, a Class D license or a Class M license shall be issued for a period  
 30 to be elected by the applicant of either four (4) years upon payment of  
 31 ~~twelve dollars (\$12.00)~~ fourteen dollars (\$14.00) or eight (8) years upon  
 32 payment of ~~twenty-four dollars (\$24.00)~~ twenty-six dollars (\$26.00) to a  
 33 qualified applicant who:

34   (i) Is seventy (70) or more years of age; and

35   (ii) Has an expired Class D license or Class M  
 36 license.

1                   (C) A Class D license or a Class M license with a firearm  
2 designation under § 27-16-817 shall be issued for a period of five (5) years  
3 upon payment of twenty-six dollars (\$26.00).  
4

5           SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 16, Subchapter 8, is  
6 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

7           27-16-817. Federal criminal background check and firearm designation.

8           (a)(1) The Department of Finance and Administration and the  
9 Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police shall  
10 coordinate to establish a system to provide the Office of Driver Services  
11 with an instant federal criminal background check from the Federal Bureau of  
12 Investigation that satisfies the federal criminal background check  
13 requirements for the purchase of a firearm.

14           (2) The Office of Driver Services shall require that:

15                   (A) An applicant sign a release of information; and

16                   (B) The information received from an instant federal  
17 criminal background check:

18                           (i) Shall be used only for the purpose of making  
19 decisions regarding the issuance of a driver's license with a firearm  
20 designation under this section; and

21                           (ii) Is confidential and shall not be released to  
22 any third party.

23           (b)(1) The Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State  
24 Police shall provide the Office of Driver Services with the instant federal  
25 criminal background check required under this section within the time it  
26 takes for an person to apply for and be issued a driver's license at a local  
27 revenue office.

28           (2) A driver's license with a firearm designation under  
29 subsection (c) of this section shall not be issued until the Office of Driver  
30 Services receives the instant federal criminal background check and verifies  
31 that the information available does not indicate that the possession of a  
32 firearm by the applicant would be in violation of Arkansas law or federal  
33 law.

34           (c)(1) If an instant federal criminal background check is approved,  
35 the Office of Driver Services shall issue a driver's license with a firearm  
36 designation.

