

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2732

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. ESTY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. DELAURO) 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 2013, almost 90 percent of the nearly
9 9,000 firearm homicides in the United States oc-
10 curred with a handgun.

1 (2) Recently published research by top national
2 experts, notably on Missouri and Connecticut hand-
3 gun purchaser licensing laws, have estimated that
4 Missouri’s repeal of its handgun purchaser licensing
5 law led to a 25 percent increase in firearm homicide
6 rates while Connecticut’s adoption of its handgun
7 purchaser licensing law led to a 40 percent decrease
8 in firearm homicide rates.

9 (3) In States which have had effective handgun
10 purchaser licensing laws for decades, such as Con-
11 necticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York,
12 the vast majority of guns traced to crimes originated
13 in other States, which supports the need for hand-
14 gun purchaser licensing laws in every state.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act, the terms “Attorney General” and
17 “handgun” have the meanings given those terms in section
18 921(a) of title 18, United States Code.

19 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED FOR HANDGUN LI-**
20 **CENSING.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is author-
22 ized to award grants to States, units of local government,
23 and Indian tribes for the development, implementation,
24 and evaluation of handgun purchaser licensing require-
25 ments.

1 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts ap-
2 propriated to carry out this Act and not later than 90
3 days after such amounts are appropriated, the Attorney
4 General shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eli-
5 gible applicants whose applications are approved under
6 subsection (c) to assist such applicants in implementing
7 and improving handgun purchaser licensing programs.

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

14 (1) a description of the law that the applicant
15 has enacted to require a license for any purchase of
16 a handgun including a description of any other ex-
17 emptions to such law; and

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

21 (d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for
22 grants, an applicant must have in effect handgun pur-
23 chaser licensing laws that include the following provisions:

24 (1) An individual applying for a handgun li-
25 cense or permit must be at least 21 years old and

1 be a national or lawful permanent resident of the
2 United States.

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

6 (3) Such an individual must reapply for the
7 handgun purchaser license or permit after a period
8 no longer than five years.

9 (4) Such an individual must submit to a back-
10 ground investigation, and a criminal history check,
11 in connection with their application, as established
12 by the State.

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

16 (6) Such an individual must provide proof that
17 the individual is legally present and lawfully resides
18 in the United States, including a birth certificate, or
19 valid passport. A lawful permanent resident must
20 provide his or her alien registration number and 90-
21 day proof of residency. A naturalized citizen must
22 provide proof of citizenship.

23 (7) Any individual who is prohibited from pos-
24 sessed a firearm under section 922(g) of title 18,

1 United States Code, may not receive a license or
2 permit.

3 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—A grantee under this Act shall
4 use such grant to improve handgun purchaser licensing
5 programs of that grantee.

6 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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