

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5490

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2018

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut (for herself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. ADAMS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## 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, more than 33,000 Americans were  
9 killed by guns and almost 90 percent of the firearms  
10 used in these deaths were handguns.

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—

17           (1) the terms “Attorney General” and “hand-  
18 gun” have the meanings given those terms in section  
19 921(a) of title 18, United States Code; and

20           (2) the term “Indian tribe” has the meaning  
21 given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-  
22 mination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.  
23 450b).

1 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED FOR HANDGUN LI-**  
2 **CENSING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is author-  
4 ized to award grants to States, units of local government,  
5 and Indian tribes for the development, implementation,  
6 and evaluation of handgun purchaser licensing require-  
7 ments.

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

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

21 (1) a description of the law that the applicant  
22 has enacted to require a license for any purchase of  
23 a handgun including a description of any exemptions  
24 to such law; and

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

4           (d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for  
5 a grant under this Act, an applicant shall have in effect  
6 handgun purchaser licensing laws that—

7           (1) require—

8                   (A) an individual applying for a handgun  
9                   license or permit to be at least 21 years old and  
10                  be a national or lawful permanent resident of  
11                  the United States;

12                  (B) an individual described in subpara-  
13                  graph (A) to apply for the handgun purchaser  
14                  license or permit at a law enforcement agency  
15                  in the State in which the individual resides;

16                  (C) an individual who is issued a handgun  
17                  license or permit to reapply for the handgun  
18                  purchaser license or permit after a period not  
19                  longer than 5 years;

20                  (D) an individual described in subpara-  
21                  graph (A) to submit to a background investiga-  
22                  tion, and a criminal history check, in connection  
23                  with the application, as established by the  
24                  State;

1           (E) an individual described in subpara-  
2 graph (A) to submit fingerprints and photo-  
3 graphs in connection with the application for  
4 the license or permit; and

5           (F) an individual described in subpara-  
6 graph (A) to provide—

7                   (i) proof that the individual is legally  
8 present and lawfully resides in the United  
9 States, including a birth certificate, or  
10 valid passport; and

11                   (ii)(I) in the case of a lawful perma-  
12 nent resident, the alien registration num-  
13 ber and 90-day proof of residency; or

14                   (II) in the case of a naturalized cit-  
15 izen, proof of citizenship; and

16           (2) prohibit an individual who is prohibited  
17 from possessing a firearm under section 922(g) of  
18 title 18, United States Code, from receiving a license  
19 or permit.

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

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attor-  
3 ney General such sums as may be necessary to carry out  
4 this Act.

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