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**Firearm Background Check Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: A. Cory Maloy**

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

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**LONG TITLE**

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**General Description:**

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This bill addresses background checks for firearms.

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**Highlighted Provisions:**

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This bill:

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8     ▸ exempts an individual from undergoing a background check for the sale or transfer of a  
9     firearm that is regulated under the National Firearms Act if the individual has received  
10    an approved application within the last 30 days for the sale or transfer of the firearm  
11    from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives;

12    ▸ clarifies that a Federal Firearms Licensee does not need to undergo a criminal background  
13    check for the transfer of a firearm to the federal firearms licensee; and  
14    ▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

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**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16    None

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**Other Special Clauses:**

18    None

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**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

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**AMENDS:**

21    **53-5a-601**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173, 208

22    **53-5a-602**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 208

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

25    Section 1. Section **53-5a-601** is amended to read:

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**53-5a-601 . Definitions.**

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As used in this part:

28    (1) "Antique firearm" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-5a-101.5.

29    (2) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Criminal Identification created in Section 53-10-201  
30       within the department.

31 (3) "Criminal history background check" means a criminal background check conducted  
32 through the bureau or a local law enforcement agency.

33 (4) "Dangerous weapon" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-11-101.

34 (5) "Dealer" means a person who is:  
35 (a) licensed under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923; and  
36 (b) engaged in the business of selling, leasing, or otherwise transferring a firearm or  
37 handgun, whether the person is a retail or wholesale dealer, pawnbroker, or other  
38 type of merchant or seller.

39 (6) "Domestic violence" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-36-1.

40 (7) "Federal firearms licensee" means a person who:  
41 (a) holds a valid federal firearms license issued under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923; and  
42 (b) is engaged in the activities authorized by the specific category of license held by the  
43 person.

44 (8)(a) "Firearm" means a pistol, revolver, shotgun, short barreled shotgun, rifle, or short  
45 barreled rifle, or a device that could be used as a dangerous weapon from which is  
46 expelled a projectile by action of an explosive.  
47 (b) "Firearm" does not include an antique firearm.

48 (9) "NFA firearm" means a firearm as that term is defined in the National Firearms Act, 26  
49 U.S.C. Sec. 5845.

50 [(9)] (10)(a) "Short barreled rifle" means a rifle having a barrel or barrels of fewer than  
51 16 inches in length.  
52 (b) "Short barreled rifle" includes a dangerous weapon made from a rifle by alteration,  
53 modification, or otherwise, if the weapon as modified has an overall length of fewer  
54 than 26 inches.

55 [(10)] (11)(a) "Short barreled shotgun" means a shotgun having a barrel or barrels of  
56 fewer than 18 inches in length.  
57 (b) "Short barreled shotgun" includes a dangerous weapon made from a shotgun by  
58 alteration, modification, or otherwise, if the weapon as modified has an overall length  
59 of fewer than 26 inches.

60 [(11)] (12) "Shotgun" means a smooth bore firearm designed to fire cartridges containing  
61 pellets or a single slug.

62 [(12)] (13) "Slug" means a single projectile discharged from a shotgun shell.

63 Section 2. Section **53-5a-602** is amended to read:  
64 **53-5a-602 . Criminal background check prior to purchase of a firearm -- Fee --**

65      **Exemption for concealed firearm permit holders and law enforcement officers.**

66      (1)(a) To establish personal identification and residence in this state for purposes of this  
67      part, a dealer shall require an individual receiving a firearm to present one photo  
68      identification on a form issued by a governmental agency of the state.

69      (b) A dealer may not accept a driving privilege card issued under Section 53-3-207 as  
70      proof of identification for the purpose of establishing personal identification and  
71      residence in this state as required under this Subsection (1).

72      (2)(a) A criminal history background check is required for the sale of a firearm by a  
73      licensed firearm dealer in the state.

74      (b) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply to the sale or transfer ~~§→ [of a firearm to]~~ ~~§~~  
74a      of:

75      (i) ~~[-]a firearm to a Federal Firearms Licensee[:]~~ ; or

76      (ii) ~~§→ a NFA firearm to~~ ~~§~~ an individual ~~§→ [who]~~ if the individual ~~§~~ has  
76a      received an approved application for the sale or transfer of

77      ~~§→ [an] the~~ ~~§~~ NFA firearm from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
77a      Firearms, and Explosives

78      within thirty days after the day on which the application was approved by the  
79      Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ~~§→ for the NFA firearm~~ ~~§~~.

80      (3)(a) An individual purchasing a firearm from a dealer shall consent in writing to a  
81      criminal background check, on a form provided by the bureau.

82      (b) The form shall contain the following information:

83      (i) the dealer identification number;

84      (ii) the name and address of the individual receiving the firearm;

85      (iii) the date of birth, height, weight, eye color, and hair color of the individual  
86      receiving the firearm; and

87      (iv) the social security number or any other identification number of the individual  
88      receiving the firearm.

89      (4)(a) The dealer shall send the information required by Subsection (3) to the bureau  
90      immediately upon its receipt by the dealer.

91      (b) A dealer may not sell or transfer a firearm to an individual until the dealer has  
92      provided the bureau with the information in Subsection (3) and has received approval  
93      from the bureau under Subsection (6).

94      (5) The dealer shall make a request for criminal history background information by  
95      telephone or other electronic means to the bureau and shall receive approval or denial of

96 the inquiry by telephone or other electronic means.

97 (6) When the dealer calls for or requests a criminal history background check, the bureau  
98 shall:

99 (a) review the criminal history files, including juvenile court records, and the temporary  
100 restricted file created under Section 53-5a-504, to determine if the individual is  
101 prohibited from purchasing, possessing, or transferring a firearm by state or federal  
102 law;

103 (b) inform the dealer that:

104 (i) the records indicate the individual is prohibited; or

105 (ii) the individual is approved for purchasing, possessing, or transferring a firearm;

106 (c) provide the dealer with a unique transaction number for that inquiry; and

107 (d) provide a response to the requesting dealer during the call for a criminal background  
108 check, or by return call, or other electronic means, without delay, except in case of  
109 electronic failure or other circumstances beyond the control of the bureau, the bureau  
110 shall advise the dealer of the reason for the delay and give the dealer an estimate of  
111 the length of the delay.

112 (7)(a) The bureau may not maintain any records of the criminal history background  
113 check longer than 20 days from the date of the dealer's request, if the bureau  
114 determines that the individual receiving the firearm is not prohibited from  
115 purchasing, possessing, or transferring the firearm under state or federal law.

116 (b) However, the bureau shall maintain a log of requests containing the dealer's federal  
117 firearms number, the transaction number, and the transaction date for a period of 12  
118 months.

119 (8)(a) If the criminal history background check discloses information indicating that the  
120 individual attempting to purchase the firearm is prohibited from purchasing,  
121 possessing, or transferring a firearm, the bureau shall:

122 (i) within 24 hours after determining that the purchaser is prohibited from purchasing,  
123 possessing, or transferring a firearm, notify the law enforcement agency in the  
124 jurisdiction where the dealer is located; and

125 (ii) inform the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the individual  
126 resides.

127 (b) Subsection (8)(a) does not apply to an individual prohibited from purchasing a  
128 firearm solely due to placement on the temporary restricted list under Section  
129 53-5a-504.

130 (c) A law enforcement agency that receives information from the bureau under  
131 Subsection (8)(a) shall provide a report before August 1 of each year to the bureau  
132 that includes:  
133 (i) based on the information the bureau provides to the law enforcement agency under  
134 Subsection (8)(a), the number of cases that involve an individual who is  
135 prohibited from purchasing, possessing, or transferring a firearm as a result of a  
136 conviction for an offense involving domestic violence; and  
137 (ii) of the cases described in Subsection (8)(c)(i):  
138 (A) the number of cases the law enforcement agency investigates; and  
139 (B) the number of cases the law enforcement agency investigates that result in a  
140 criminal charge.

141 (d) The bureau shall:  
142 (i) compile the information from the reports described in Subsection (8)(c);  
143 (ii) omit or redact any identifying information in the compilation; and  
144 (iii) submit the compilation to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim  
145 Committee before November 1 of each year.

146 (9) If an individual is denied the right to purchase a firearm under this section, the  
147 individual may review the individual's criminal history information and may challenge  
148 or amend the information as provided in Section 53-10-108.

149 (10) The bureau shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
150 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to ensure the identity, confidentiality, and security of  
151 all records provided by the bureau under this part are in conformance with the  
152 requirements of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, Pub. L. No. 103-159, 107  
153 Stat. 1536 (1993).

154 (11)(a) A dealer shall collect a criminal history background check fee for the sale of a  
155 firearm under this section.  
156 (b) The fee described under Subsection (11)(a) remains in effect until changed by the  
157 bureau through the process described in Section 63J-1-504.  
158 (c)(i) The dealer shall forward at one time all fees collected for criminal history  
159 background checks performed during the month to the bureau by the last day of  
160 the month following the sale of a firearm.  
161 (ii) The bureau shall deposit the fees ~~[in]~~ into the General Fund as dedicated credits to  
162 cover the cost of administering and conducting the criminal history background  
163 check program.

164 (12)(a) An individual with a concealed firearm permit issued under Section 53-5a-303 or  
165 a provisional concealed firearm permit issued under Section 53-5a-304 is exempt  
166 from the background check and corresponding fee required in this section for the  
167 purchase of a firearm if:  
168 (i) the individual presents the individual's concealed firearm permit to the dealer prior  
169 to purchase of the firearm; and  
170 (ii) the dealer verifies with the bureau that the individual's concealed firearm permit  
171 is valid.  
172 (b) An individual with a temporary permit to carry a concealed firearm issued under  
173 Section 53-5a-305 is not exempt from a background check and the corresponding fee  
174 required in this section for the purchase of a firearm.

175 (13)(a) A law enforcement officer, as defined in Section 53-13-103, is exempt from the  
176 background check fee required in this section for the purchase of a personal firearm  
177 to be carried while off-duty if the law enforcement officer verifies current  
178 employment by providing a letter of good standing from the officer's commanding  
179 officer and current law enforcement photo identification.  
180 (b) Subsection (13)(a) may only be used by a law enforcement officer to purchase a  
181 personal firearm once in a 24-month period.

182 (14) A dealer engaged in the business of selling, leasing, or otherwise transferring a firearm  
183 shall:  
184 (a) make the firearm safety brochure described in Subsection 26B-5-211(3) available to  
185 a customer free of charge; and  
186 (b) at the time of purchase, distribute a cable-style gun lock provided to the dealer under  
187 Subsection 26B-5-211(3) to a customer purchasing a shotgun, short barreled shotgun,  
188 short barreled rifle, rifle, or another firearm that federal law does not require be  
189 accompanied by a gun lock at the time of purchase.

190 **Section 3. Effective Date.**

191 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.