

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8534

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## 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 “Responsible Gun Own-  
5 ership Licensing Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LICENSE FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIREARMS.**

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

1 **“§ 935. License for the acquisition or receipt of fire-**  
2 **arms**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
4 (d), it shall be unlawful for any individual to purchase or  
5 receive a firearm unless the individual has a valid Federal  
6 firearm license.

7 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL LICENSE TO  
8 PURCHASE OR RECEIVE FIREARMS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall  
10 establish a Federal system for issuing a Federal fire-  
11 arm license to eligible individuals for firearms trans-  
12 ferred to such individual.

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

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

17 “(i) has completed training in fire-  
18 arms safety, including—

19 “(I) a written test, to dem-  
20 onstrate knowledge of applicable fire-  
21 arms laws; and

22 “(II) hands-on testing, including  
23 firing testing, to demonstrate safe use  
24 and sufficient accuracy of a firearm;  
25 and

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

3                   “(I) has submitted to a back-  
4                   ground investigation and criminal his-  
5                   tory check of the individual;

6                   “(II) has submitted proof of  
7                   identity;

8                   “(III) has submitted the finger-  
9                   prints of the individual; and

10                  “(IV) has submitted identifying  
11                  information on the firearm that the  
12                  person intends to obtain, including the  
13                  make, model, and serial number, and  
14                  the identity of the firearm seller or  
15                  transferor;

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

19                  “(C) the Attorney General shall issue or  
20                  deny a license under this section not later than  
21                  30 days after the date on which the application  
22                  for such license is received;

23                  “(D) each license issued under this section  
24                  shall be valid for the purchase of a single fire-  
25                  arm, which shall be purchased not later than 30

1 days after the date on which the license is  
2 issued;

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

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

9 “(3) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Before issuing a li-  
11 cense under this section, the Attorney General  
12 shall—

13 “(i) conduct a background investiga-  
14 tion on the applicant; and

15 “(ii) deny any license if receipt of a  
16 firearm would violate subsection (g) or (n)  
17 of section 922 or any provision of State  
18 law.

19 “(B) POSES A DANGER OF BODILY IN-  
20 JURY.—

21 “(i) INFORMATION FROM STATE AND  
22 LOCAL OFFICIALS.—After receiving the no-  
23 tice described in paragraph (2)(F), rel-  
24 evant State and local officials may submit  
25 to the Attorney General information dem-

1           onstrating that the individual poses a sig-  
2           nificant danger of bodily injury to self or  
3           others by possessing, purchasing, or receiv-  
4           ing a firearm.

5           “(ii) DENIAL.—

6                     “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney  
7           General may deny a license under this  
8           section if the Attorney General deter-  
9           mines that the applicant poses a sig-  
10          nificant danger of bodily injury to self  
11          or others by possessing, purchasing,  
12          or receiving a firearm, after exam-  
13          ining factors the Attorney General  
14          considers are relevant to the deter-  
15          mination, including—

16                    “(aa) history of threats or  
17                    acts of violence toward self or  
18                    others;

19                    “(bb) history of use, at-  
20                    tempted use, or threatened use of  
21                    physical force by the applicant  
22                    against another person;

23                    “(cc) whether the applicant  
24                    is the subject of or has violated a  
25                    domestic violence or stalking re-

1 straining order or protection  
2 order;

3 “(dd) any prior arrest, pend-  
4 ing charge, or conviction for a  
5 violent or serious crime or dis-  
6 orderly persons offense, stalking  
7 offense, or domestic violence of-  
8 fense;

9 “(ee) any prior arrest, pend-  
10 ing charge, or conviction for an  
11 offense involving cruelty to ani-  
12 mals;

13 “(ff) history of drug or alco-  
14 hol abuse or involvement in drug  
15 trafficking;

16 “(gg) any recent acquisition  
17 of firearms, ammunition, or other  
18 deadly weapons; and

19 “(hh) involvement in fire-  
20 arms trafficking or unlawful fire-  
21 arms transfers; and

22 “(ii) history of unsafe stor-  
23 age or handling of firearms.

24 “(II) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—An ap-  
25 plicant denied a license under sub-

1 clause (I) may file an action in the  
2 appropriate district court of the  
3 United States for seeking review of  
4 the denial.

5 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
6 in this paragraph may be construed to modify  
7 any other requirement for a background inves-  
8 tigation relating to the acquisition or receipt of  
9 a firearm in effect on the day before the date  
10 of enactment of this section.

11 “(4) REVOCATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General  
13 shall revoke a license issued under this section  
14 if the Attorney General determines that—

15 “(i) the licensee poses a significant  
16 danger of bodily injury to self or others by  
17 possessing, purchasing, or receiving a fire-  
18 arm; or

19 “(ii) after a regular background inves-  
20 tigation conducted by the Attorney Gen-  
21 eral, the possession of a firearm would vio-  
22 late subsection (g) or (n) of section 922 or  
23 any provision of State law.

24 “(B) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A  
25 HEARING.—

1           “(i) NOTICE.—Upon determining that  
2           the licensee should have their license re-  
3           voked under subparagraph (A), the Attor-  
4           ney General shall provide notice to the li-  
5           censee and to relevant State and local offi-  
6           cials of the determination.

7           “(ii) HEARING.—For revocations  
8           under subparagraph (A)(i), the Attorney  
9           General shall provide a licensee an oppor-  
10          tunity for a hearing in the appropriate dis-  
11          trict court of the United States not later  
12          than 30 days after the date on which a li-  
13          cense is revoked under this paragraph to  
14          appeal the revocation.

15          “(C) PROCEDURES.—The Attorney Gen-  
16          eral shall establish procedures to ensure that  
17          any firearm is removed from any individual  
18          when the individual’s license is revoked under  
19          this paragraph.

20          “(D) RETURN OF FIREARMS.—A firearm  
21          removed under the procedures established under  
22          subparagraph (C) may be returned to the indi-  
23          vidual only if the individual’s license is rein-  
24          stated.



1           “(5) RENEWAL.—The Attorney General shall  
2           establish procedures for the renewal of a license that  
3           requires that the applicant satisfies the requirements  
4           described in paragraph (2).

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

9           “(c) RECORDKEEPING .—It shall be unlawful for any  
10          individual to sell or otherwise dispose of a firearm to a  
11          person unless the individual reports the transaction to the  
12          Attorney General not later than 3 business days after the  
13          date on which the firearm is sold or transferred, which  
14          shall include identifying information on the firearm seller  
15          and on the firearm transferee, including the make, model,  
16          and serial number.

17          “(d) STATE LICENSES.—

18                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not  
19                 apply to an individual in a State if the Attorney  
20                 General determines that the State has a process for  
21                 issuing a State firearm license to eligible individuals  
22                 in the State with substantially similar requirements  
23                 to those described in subsection (b).

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

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

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

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

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

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

11               “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any  
12 person who is not a licensed importer, licensed man-  
13 ufacturer, or licensed dealer to transfer a firearm to  
14 any other person who is not so licensed, unless a li-  
15 censed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed  
16 dealer has first taken possession of the firearm for  
17 the purpose of complying with subsection (t).

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

23               “(3) RETURN.—If a transfer of a firearm de-  
24 scribed in paragraph (1) will not be completed for  
25 any reason after a licensee takes possession of the

1 firearm (including because the transfer of the fire-  
2 arm to, or receipt of the firearm by, the transferee  
3 would violate this chapter), the return of the firearm  
4 to the transferor by the licensee shall not constitute  
5 the transfer of a firearm for purposes of this chap-  
6 ter.”.

7 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER TO CERTAIN UNLI-**  
8 **CENSED PERSONS.**

9 Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, as  
10 amended by section 3 of this Act, is amended by adding  
11 at the end the following:

12 “(bb) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER TO CERTAIN UN-  
13 LICENSED PERSONS.—It shall be unlawful for any person  
14 to—

15 “(1) sell or otherwise dispose of a firearm to  
16 any person if such person does not have a license  
17 issued under section 932 or a substantially similar  
18 State law, as determined by the Attorney General,  
19 during the previous 30 days; or

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

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