

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1179

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 23, 2022

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1179.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill requires firearm owners who move to New Jersey to obtain a firearm purchaser identification card (FPIC) and register their handguns within 60 days of residing in this State.

Under current law, a person who purchases a firearm in this State is required to display an FPIC, which identifies the card holder as a person who meets the statutory qualifications to purchase a firearm in this State. A person who legally owned a firearm while residing in another state and then moves to New Jersey is not required to obtain an FPIC. The person also is not required to register the firearm, but may do so voluntarily.

This bill requires a firearm owner who becomes a resident of this State to apply for an FPIC within 60 days and if the firearm is a handgun, to register that handgun within 60 days. To register the handgun, the owner is required to submit to the municipal law enforcement agency or the State Police a registration statement that provides the person's name and address and the make, model, and serial number of the handgun being registered.

Under the bill, the Superintendent of State Police is required to prepare the form of registration statement and provide a suitable supply of statements to each organized full-time municipal police department and each State Police station within 60 days prior to the bill's enactment.

The bill, as amended, provides that a person who fails to apply for a firearm purchaser identification card or register a handgun as required by the bill will be granted 30 days to comply with the bill's provisions, after which time the person is liable to a civil penalty of \$250 for a first offense and is guilty of a disorderly persons offense for a second or subsequent offense. Under the bill, if a person is in possession of multiple firearms or handguns in violation of the bill's provisions, the person is guilty of one offense provided the violation is a single event.

The bill provides that the civil penalty is to be collected pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999" in a summary proceeding before the municipal court having jurisdiction. Under the amended bill, a law enforcement officer having enforcement authority in that municipality may issue a summons for a violation and may serve and execute all process with respect to enforcement consistent with the Rules of Court.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to provide that a person who fails to comply with the registration provisions would be granted 30 days to comply, after which time the person is liable to a civil penalty of \$250 for a first offense and is guilty of a disorderly persons offense for a second or subsequent offense. Under the bill as introduced, a person would not be granted the additional 30 days to comply.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.