SENATE, No. 3811

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 11, 2023

Sponsored by: Senator JON M. BRAMNICK District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes registry allowing persons to voluntarily include their names on list of individuals prohibited from owning firearm.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the sale of firearms, supplementing Title 2C of 2 the New Jersey Statutes, and amending N.J.S.2C:58-3.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

- 1. (New section) a. The Superintendent of State Police shall establish an Internet-based "Do Not Sell" registry to prohibit the sale of firearms to persons residing in this State who have voluntarily requested to be included in the registry. The superintendent shall ensure that the registered person's information is included among the criteria prohibiting a person from purchasing a firearm pursuant to subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3 when conducting a criminal history record background check. In addition, the superintendent shall ensure that the registry:
 - (1) verifies the identity of any person who chooses to register;
- (2) prevents unauthorized disclosure of the personal information of any registered person; and
- (3) informs registered persons of the implications of being included in the registry.
- b. A person who registers pursuant to this section may subsequently request through the registry to have the person's information removed from the registry. The superintendent shall not remove the information until 21 days following the person's request. The superintendent shall subsequently destroy all records of the registration, associated transactions, and the request for removal of that individual's name from the registry.
- c. The registry shall allow persons, at the time of registration or anytime thereafter, to submit email addresses of personal contacts—and shall be programmed to notify via email those personal contacts that the registered person has been included in the registry and is prohibited from purchasing a firearm. The registry also shall notify the same personal contacts via email if the registered person subsequently requests to be removed from the registry.
- d. Information regarding a person's inclusion in the registry established pursuant to this section shall not be deemed a public record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.), or common law concerning access to public records.
- e. The Attorney General shall prepare and disseminate educational information regarding the "Do Not Sell" registry to each psychiatric facility in the State which shall be made available to the public.
- f. It shall be a crime of the third degree to:

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

- (1) transfer a firearm to a registered person with knowledge that the person receiving the firearm is included in the registry established pursuant to this section; and
- (2) knowingly register another person's information in the registry without that person's consent.
- g. As used in this section, "psychiatric facility" means a State psychiatric facility listed in R.S.30:1-7, a county psychiatric hospital or the psychiatric unit of a county hospital, a short-term care facility, special psychiatric hospital or psychiatric unit of a general hospital or other health care facility licensed by the Department of Health pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.), or a hospital or community-based mental health center or other entity licensed or funded by the Department of Human Services to provide community-based mental health services.

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- 2. N.J.S.2C:58-3 is amended to read as follows:
- 2C:58-3. a. Permit to purchase a handgun.
- (1) A person shall not sell, give, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of, nor receive, purchase, or otherwise acquire a handgun unless the purchaser, assignee, donee, receiver or holder is licensed as a dealer under this chapter or has first secured a permit to purchase a handgun as provided by this section.
- (2) A person who is not a licensed retail dealer and sells, gives, transfers, assigns, or otherwise disposes of, or receives, purchases or otherwise acquires a handgun pursuant to this section shall conduct the transaction through a licensed retail dealer.

The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply if the transaction is:

- (a) between members of an immediate family as defined in subsection n. of this section;
 - (b) between law enforcement officers;
- (c) between collectors of firearms or ammunition as curios or relics as defined in Title 18, U.S.C. section 921 (a) (13) who have in their possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; or
- 37 (d) a temporary transfer pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1992, c.74 38 (C.2C:58-3.1) or section 1 of P.L.1997, c.375 (C.2C:58-3.2).
- 39 (3) Prior to a transaction conducted pursuant to this subsection, 40 the retail dealer shall complete a National Instant Criminal 41 Background Check of the person acquiring the handgun. In 42 addition:
- 43 (a) the retail dealer shall submit to the Superintendent of State 44 Police, on a form approved by the superintendent, information 45 identifying and confirming the background check;
- 46 (b) every retail dealer shall maintain a record of transactions 47 conducted pursuant to this subsection, which shall be maintained at

the address displayed on the retail dealer's license for inspection by a law enforcement officer during reasonable hours;

- (c) a retail dealer may charge a fee for a transaction conducted pursuant to this subsection; and
- (d) any record produced pursuant to this subsection shall not be considered a public record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) or P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.).
 - b. Firearms purchaser identification card.

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- (1) A person shall not sell, give, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of nor receive, purchase or otherwise acquire an antique cannon or a rifle or shotgun, other than an antique rifle or shotgun, unless the purchaser, assignee, donee, receiver or holder is licensed as a dealer under this chapter or possesses a valid firearms purchaser identification card, and first exhibits the card to the seller, donor, transferor or assignor, and unless the purchaser, assignee, donee, receiver or holder signs a written certification, on a form prescribed by the superintendent, which shall indicate that the person presently complies with the requirements of subsection c. of this section and shall contain the person's name, address and firearms purchaser identification card number or dealer's registration number. The certification shall be retained by the seller, as provided in paragraph (4) of subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:58-2, or, in the case of a person who is not a dealer, it may be filed with the chief police officer of the municipality in which the person resides or with the superintendent.
 - (2) A person who is not a licensed retail dealer and sells, gives, transfers, assigns, or otherwise disposes of, or receives, purchases or otherwise acquires an antique cannon or a rifle or shotgun pursuant to this section shall conduct the transaction through a licensed retail dealer.
- The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply if the transaction is:
 - (a) between members of an immediate family as defined in subsection n. of this section;
 - (b) between law enforcement officers;
 - (c) between collectors of firearms or ammunition as curios or relics as defined in Title 18, U.S.C. section 921 (a) (13) who have in their possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; or
 - (d) a temporary transfer pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1992, c.74 (C.2C:58-3.1) and section 1 of P.L.1997, c.375 (C.2C:58-3.2).
- 43 (3) Prior to a transaction conducted pursuant to this subsection, 44 the retail dealer shall complete a National Instant Criminal 45 Background Check of the person acquiring an antique cannon or a 46 rifle or shotgun. In addition:

(a) the retail dealer shall submit to the Superintendent of State Police, on a form approved by the superintendent, information identifying and confirming the background check;

- (b) every retail dealer shall maintain a record of transactions conducted pursuant to this section which shall be maintained at the address set forth on the retail dealer's license for inspection by a law enforcement officer during reasonable hours;
- (c) a retail dealer may charge a fee, not to exceed \$70, for a transaction conducted pursuant to this subsection; and
- (d) any record produced pursuant to this subsection shall not be considered a public record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) or P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.).
- c. Who may obtain. Except as hereinafter provided, a person shall not be denied a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms purchaser identification card, unless the person is known in the community in which the person lives as someone who has engaged in acts or made statements suggesting the person is likely to engage in conduct, other than justified self-defense, that would pose a danger to self or others, or is subject to any of the disabilities set forth in this section or other sections of this chapter. A handgun purchase permit or firearms purchaser identification card shall not be issued:
- (1) To any person who has been convicted of: (a) any crime in this State or its felony counterpart in any other state or federal jurisdiction; or (b) a disorderly persons offense in this State involving an act of domestic violence as defined in section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19) or its felony or misdemeanor counterpart involving an act of domestic violence as defined under a comparable statute in any other state or federal jurisdiction, whether or not armed with or possessing a weapon at the time of the offense;
- (2) To any person who is presently confined for a mental disorder as a voluntary admission as defined in section 2 of P.L.1987, c.116 (C.30:4-27.2) or who is presently involuntarily committed to inpatient or outpatient treatment pursuant to P.L.1987, c.116 (C.30:4-27.1 et seq.);
- (3) To any person who suffers from a physical defect or disease which would make it unsafe for that person to handle firearms, to any person with a substance use disorder involving drugs as defined in section 2 of P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-2), or to any alcoholic as defined in section 2 of P.L.1975, c.305 (C.26:2B-8) unless any of the foregoing persons produces a certificate of a medical doctor, treatment provider, or psychiatrist licensed in New Jersey, or other satisfactory proof, that the person is no longer suffering from that particular disability in a manner that would interfere with or handicap that person in the handling of firearms; to any person who knowingly falsifies any information on the application form for a handgun purchase permit or firearms purchaser identification card;

(4) To any person under the age of 18 years for a firearms purchaser identification card and to any person under the age of 21 years for a permit to purchase a handgun;

- (5) To any person where the issuance would not be in the interest of the public health, safety or welfare because the person is found to be lacking the essential character of temperament necessary to be entrusted with a firearm;
- (6) To any person who is subject to or has violated a temporary or final restraining order issued pursuant to the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991", P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) prohibiting the person from possessing any firearm or a temporary or final domestic violence restraining order issued in another jurisdiction prohibiting the person from possessing any firearm;
- (7) To any person who as a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent for an offense which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime and the offense involved the unlawful use or possession of a weapon, explosive or destructive device or is enumerated in subsection d. of section 2 of P.L.1997, c.117 (C.2C:43-7.2);
- (8) To any person whose firearm is seized pursuant to the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991", P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) and whose firearm has not been returned; [or]
- (9) To any person named on the consolidated Terrorist Watchlist maintained by the Terrorist Screening Center administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- (10) To any person who is subject to or has violated a court order prohibiting the custody, control, ownership, purchase, possession, or receipt of a firearm or ammunition issued pursuant to the "Extreme Risk Protective Order Act of 2018", P.L.2018, c.35 (C.2C:58-20 et al.);
- (11) To any person who is subject to or has violated a court order prohibiting the custody, control, ownership, purchase, possession, or receipt of a firearm or ammunition issued pursuant to P.L.2021, c.327 (C.2C:12-14 et al.);
- (12) To any person who is subject to or has violated a temporary or final restraining order issued pursuant to the "Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 2015," P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et al.);
- (13) To any person who has previously been voluntarily admitted to inpatient treatment pursuant to P.L.1987, c.116 (C.30:4-27.1 et seq.) or involuntarily committed to inpatient or outpatient treatment pursuant to P.L.1987, c.116 (C.30:4-27.1 et seq.), unless the court has expunged the person's record pursuant to P.L.1953, c.268 (C.30:4-80.8 et seq.);
- 45 (14) To any person who is subject to an outstanding arrest 46 warrant for an indictable crime in this State or for a felony, other 47 than a felony to which section 1 of P.L.2022, c.50 (C.2A:160-14.1) 48 would apply, in any other state or federal jurisdiction; [or]

1 (15) To any person who is a fugitive from justice due to having 2 fled from any state or federal jurisdiction to avoid prosecution for a 3 crime, other than a crime to which section 1 of P.L.2022, c.50 4 (C.2A:160-14.1) would apply, or to avoid giving testimony in any 5 criminal proceeding; or

(16) To any person named on the registry established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

In order to obtain a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms purchaser identification card, the applicant shall demonstrate that, within four years prior to the date of the application, the applicant satisfactorily completed a course of instruction approved by the superintendent in the lawful and safe handling and storage of firearms. The applicant shall be required to demonstrate completion of a course of instruction only once prior to obtaining either a firearms purchaser identification card or the applicant's first permit to purchase a handgun.

The applicant shall not be required to demonstrate completion of a course of instruction in order to obtain any subsequent permit to purchase a handgun, to replace an existing firearms purchaser identification card, or to renew a firearms purchaser identification card.

An applicant who is a law enforcement officer who has satisfied the requirements of subsection j. of N.J.S.2C:39-6, a retired law enforcement officer who has satisfied the requirements of subsection l. of N.J.S.2C:39-6, or a veteran who was honorably discharged as a member of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard who received substantially equivalent training shall not be required to complete the course of instruction required pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

A person who obtained a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms purchaser identification card prior to the effective date of P.L.2022, c.58 shall not be required to complete a course of instruction pursuant to this subsection.

d. Issuance. The chief police officer of an organized full-time police department of the municipality where the applicant resides or the superintendent, in all other cases, shall upon application, issue to any person qualified under the provisions of subsection c. of this section a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms purchaser identification card.

A firearms purchaser identification card issued following the effective date of P.L.2022, c.58 shall display a color photograph and be electronically linked to the fingerprints of the card holder. A person who obtained a firearms purchaser identification card prior to the effective date of P.L.2022, c.58 shall not be required to obtain a firearms purchaser identification card that displays a color photograph and is electronically linked to fingerprints. The superintendent shall establish guidelines as necessary to effectuate

the issuance of firearms purchaser identification cards that display a color photograph and which are electronically linked to the fingerprints of the card holder.

The requirements of this subsection concerning firearms purchaser identification cards issued following the effective date of P.L.2022, c.58 shall remain inoperative until such time as the superintendent establishes a system to produce cards that comply with this requirement and, until such time, applicants issued a firearms purchaser identification card shall be provided with cards that do not conform to the requirements of this section, which shall be afforded full force and effect until such time as the system is established and a compliant card is issued in accordance with this subsection. An applicant issued a non-compliant firearms purchaser identification card shall obtain a card, at no cost to the applicant, which conforms to the requirements of this section no later than one year after receiving notice that the system to produce cards that comply with this requirement is operational.

If an application for a permit or identification card is denied, the applicant shall be provided with a written statement of the reasons for the denial. Any person aggrieved by the denial of a permit or identification card may request a hearing in the Superior Court of the county in which the person resides if the person is a resident of New Jersey or in the Superior Court of the county in which the person's application was filed if the person is a nonresident. The request for a hearing shall be made in writing within 30 days of the denial of the application for a permit or identification card. The applicant shall serve a copy of the request for a hearing upon the chief police officer of the municipality in which the person resides, if the person is a resident of New Jersey, and upon the superintendent in all cases. The hearing shall be held and a record made thereof within 60 days of the receipt of the application for a hearing by the judge of the Superior Court. No formal pleading and no filing fee shall be required as a preliminary to a hearing. Appeals from the results of a hearing shall be in accordance with law

The Administrative Director of the Courts shall coordinate with the superintendent in the development of an electronic filing system to receive requests for hearings and serve the chief police officer and superintendent as required in this section.

e. Applications. Applications for permits to purchase a handgun and for firearms purchaser identification cards shall be in the form prescribed by the superintendent and shall set forth the name, residence, place of business, age, date of birth, occupation, sex, any aliases or other names previously used by the applicant, gender, and physical description, including distinguishing physical characteristics, if any, of the applicant, and shall state whether the applicant is a citizen, whether the applicant is an alcoholic as defined in section 2 of P.L.1975, c. 305 (C. 26:2B-8) or is a drug-

S3811 BRAMNICK

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1 dependent person as defined in section 2 of P.L.1970, c.226 2 (C.24:21-2), whether the applicant has ever been confined or 3 committed to a mental institution or hospital for treatment or 4 observation of a mental or psychiatric condition on a temporary, 5 interim or permanent basis, giving the name and location of the 6 institution or hospital and the dates of confinement or commitment, 7 whether the applicant has been attended, treated or observed by any 8 doctor or psychiatrist or at any hospital or mental institution on an 9 inpatient or outpatient basis for any mental or psychiatric condition, 10 giving the name and location of the doctor, psychiatrist, hospital or 11 institution and the dates of the occurrence, whether the applicant 12 presently or ever has been a member of any organization which 13 advocates or approves the commission of acts of force and violence 14 to overthrow the Government of the United States or of this State, 15 or which seeks to deny others their rights under the Constitution of 16 either the United States or the State of New Jersey, whether the 17 applicant has ever been convicted of a crime or disorderly persons 18 offense in this State or felony or misdemeanor in any other state or 19 federal jurisdiction, whether the applicant is subject to a restraining 20 order issued pursuant to the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 21 of 1991", P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) or an order entered 22 under the provisions of a substantially similar statute under the laws 23 of another jurisdiction prohibiting the applicant from possessing 24 any firearm, whether the applicant is subject to a restraining order 25 issued pursuant to the "Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 26 2015," P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et al.) or an order entered 27 under the provisions of a substantially similar statute under the laws 28 of another jurisdiction, whether the applicant is subject to a 29 protective order issued pursuant to the "Extreme Risk Protective 30 Order Act of 2018", P.L.2018, c.35 (C.2C:58-20 et al.), whether the 31 applicant is subject to a protective order issued pursuant to 32 P.L.2021, c.327 (C.2C:12-14 et al.) prohibiting the applicant from 33 possessing any firearm, and other information as the superintendent 34 shall deem necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter. 35 For the purpose of complying with this subsection, the applicant 36 shall waive any statutory or other right of confidentiality relating to 37 institutional confinement. The application shall be signed by the 38 applicant and shall contain as references the names and addresses of 39 two reputable citizens personally acquainted with the applicant. 40

An applicant for a permit to purchase a handgun shall also certify, with respect to each handgun listed on the form, whether the applicant is purchasing the handgun on the applicant's own behalf or, if not, that the purchase is being made on behalf of a third party to whom the applicant may lawfully transfer the handgun.

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Application blanks shall be obtainable from the superintendent, from any other officer authorized to grant a permit or identification card, and from licensed retail dealers, or shall be made available through an online process established or made available by the superintendent.

The chief police officer or the superintendent shall obtain the fingerprints of the applicant and shall have them compared with any and all records of fingerprints in the municipality and county in which the applicant resides and also the records of the State Bureau of Identification and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, provided that an applicant for a handgun purchase permit who possesses a valid firearms purchaser identification card, or who has previously obtained a handgun purchase permit from the same licensing authority for which the applicant was previously fingerprinted, and who provides other reasonably satisfactory proof of the applicant's identity, need not be fingerprinted again; however, the chief police officer or the superintendent shall proceed to investigate the application to determine whether or not the applicant has become subject to any of the disabilities set forth in this chapter.

Granting of permit or identification card; fee; term; renewal; revocation. The application for the permit to purchase a handgun together with a fee of \$25, or the application for the firearms purchaser identification card together with a fee of \$50, shall be delivered or forwarded to the licensing authority who, upon determining that the application is complete, shall investigate the same and, provided the requirements of this section are met, shall grant the permit or the identification card, or both, if application has been made therefor, within 30 days from the date of receipt of the completed application for residents of this State and within 45 days for nonresident applicants. A permit to purchase a handgun shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of issuance and may be renewed by the issuing authority for good cause for an additional 90 days. A firearms purchaser identification card issued or renewed after the effective date of P.L.2022, c.58 shall expire during the tenth calendar year following its date of issuance and on the same calendar day as the person's date of birth.

If the date of birth of the firearms purchaser identification card holder does not correspond to a calendar day of the tenth calendar year, the card shall expire on the last day of the birth month of the card holder.

A firearms purchaser identification card issued pursuant to this section may be renewed upon filing of a renewal application and payment of the required fee, provided that the holder is not subject to any of the disabilities set forth in subsection c. of this section and complies with all other applicable requirements as set forth in statute and regulation. If an application for renewal of a firearms purchaser identification card is denied, the applicant shall be provided with a written statement of the reasons for the denial. Any person aggrieved by the denial of an application for renewal of a firearms purchaser identification card may request a hearing in the Superior Court of the county in which the person resides if the

person is a resident of New Jersey or in the Superior Court of the county in which the person's application was filed if the person is a nonresident. The request for a hearing shall be made in writing within 30 days of the denial of the application for renewal of the firearms purchaser identification card. The applicant shall serve a copy of the request for a hearing upon the chief police officer of the municipality in which the applicant resides, if the person is a resident of New Jersey, and upon the superintendent in all cases. The hearing shall be held and a record made thereof within 60 days

of the receipt of the application for a hearing by the judge of the Superior Court. A formal pleading and filing fee shall not be required as a preliminary to a hearing. Appeals from the results of a hearing shall be in accordance with law.

The Administrative Director of the Courts shall coordinate with the superintendent in the development of an electronic filing system to receive requests for hearings and serve the chief police officer and superintendent as required in this section.

A firearms purchaser identification card issued prior to the effective date of P.L.2022, c.58 shall not expire.

A firearms purchaser identification card shall be void if the holder becomes subject to any of the disabilities set forth in subsection c. of this section, whereupon the card shall be returned within five days by the holder to the superintendent, who shall then advise the licensing authority. Failure of the holder to return the firearms purchaser identification card to the superintendent within the five days shall be an offense under subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-10. Any firearms purchaser identification card may be revoked by the Superior Court of the county wherein the card was issued, after hearing upon notice, upon a finding that the holder thereof no longer qualifies for the issuance of the permit. The county prosecutor of any county, the chief police officer of any municipality or any citizen may apply to the court at any time for the revocation of the card.

There shall be no conditions or requirements added to the form or content of the application, or required by the licensing authority for the issuance or renewal of a permit or identification card, other than those that are specifically set forth in this chapter.

- g. Disposition of fees. All fees for permits shall be paid to the State Treasury for deposit into the Victims of Crime Compensation Office account if the permit is issued by the superintendent, to the municipality if issued by the chief police officer, and to the county treasurer if issued by the judge of the Superior Court.
- h. Form of permit; establishment of a web portal; disposition of the completed information. (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the permit shall be in the form prescribed by the superintendent and shall be issued to the applicant electronically through e-mail or the web portal established or designated for this purpose by the superintendent or in such form or

manner as may be authorized by the superintendent. Prior to the time the applicant receives the handgun from the seller, the applicant shall provide to the seller an acknowledgement of the permit in the form required under the process established by the superintendent, and the seller shall complete all of the information required on the web portal. This information shall be forwarded to the superintendent through the web portal, or in such other manner as may be authorized by the superintendent, and to the chief police officer of the municipality in which the purchaser resides, except that in a municipality having no chief police officer, the information shall be forwarded to the superintendent. The purchaser shall retain a copy of the completed information and the seller shall retain a copy of the completed information as a permanent record.

A transfer of a handgun between or among immediate family members, law enforcement officers, or collectors of firearms or ammunition as curios or relics shall be conducted via the web portal established or designated by the superintendent, which shall include among other things a certification that the seller and purchaser are in fact immediate family members, law enforcement officers, or collectors of firearms or ammunition as curios or relics.

- (2) The requirements of this subsection concerning the delivery and form of permit and disposition of copies shall not be applicable when these functions may be completed by utilizing an electronic system as described in paragraph (2) of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:58-2 or section 5 of P.L.2022, c.55 (C.2C:58-3.3a).
- i. Restriction on number of firearms person may purchase. Only one handgun shall be purchased or delivered on each permit and no more than one handgun shall be purchased within any 30-day period, but this limitation shall not apply to:
- (1) a federal, State, or local law enforcement officer or agency purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance of their law enforcement duties;
- (2) a collector of handguns as curios or relics as defined in Title 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who has in the collector's possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;
- (3) transfers of handguns among licensed retail dealers, registered wholesale dealers and registered manufacturers;
- (4) transfers of handguns from any person to a licensed retail dealer or a registered wholesale dealer or registered manufacturer;
- (5) any transaction where the person has purchased a handgun from a licensed retail dealer and has returned that handgun to the dealer in exchange for another handgun within 30 days of the original transaction, provided the retail dealer reports the exchange transaction to the superintendent; or

(6) any transaction where the superintendent issues an exemption from the prohibition in this subsection pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of P.L.2009, c.186 (C.2C:58-3.4).

The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to afford or authorize any other exemption from the regulatory provisions governing firearms set forth in chapter 39 and chapter 58 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

A person shall not be restricted as to the number of rifles or shotguns the person may purchase, provided the person possesses a valid firearms purchaser identification card and provided further that the person signs the certification required in subsection b. of this section for each transaction.

- Firearms passing to heirs or legatees. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section concerning the transfer, receipt or acquisition of a firearm, a permit to purchase or a firearms purchaser identification card shall not be required for the passing of a firearm upon the death of an owner thereof to the owner's heir or legatee, whether the same be by testamentary bequest or by the laws The person who shall so receive, or acquire the firearm shall, however, be subject to all other provisions of this chapter. If the heir or legatee of the firearm does not qualify to possess or carry it, the heir or legatee may retain ownership of the firearm for the purpose of sale for a period not exceeding 180 days, or for a further limited period as may be approved by the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality in which the heir or legatee resides or the superintendent, provided that the firearm is in the custody of the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality or the superintendent during that period.
- k. Sawed-off shotguns. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the purchase or possession of any sawed-off shotgun.
- 1. Nothing in this section and in N.J.S.2C:58-2 shall apply to the sale or purchase of a visual distress signalling device approved by the United States Coast Guard, solely for possession on a private or commercial aircraft or any boat; provided, however, that no person under the age of 18 years shall purchase nor shall any person sell to a person under the age of 18 years a visual distress signalling device.
- m. The provisions of subsections a. and b. of this section and paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:58-2 shall not apply to the purchase of firearms by a law enforcement agency for use by law enforcement officers in the actual performance of the officers' official duties, which purchase may be made directly from a manufacturer or from a licensed dealer located in this State or any other state.
- n. For the purposes of this section, "immediate family" means a spouse, domestic partner as defined in section 3 of P.L.2003, c.246 (C.26:8A-3), partner in a civil union couple as defined in section 2

of P.L.2006, c.103 (C.37:1-29), parent, stepparent, grandparent, sibling, stepsibling, child, stepchild, and grandchild, as related by blood or by law.

o. Registration of handguns owned by new residents. Any person who becomes a resident of this State following the effective date of P.L.2022, c.52 and who transports into this State a firearm that the person owned or acquired while residing in another state shall apply for a firearms purchaser identification card within 60 days of becoming a New Jersey resident, and shall register any handgun so transported into this State within 60 days as provided in this subsection.

A person who registers a handgun pursuant to this subsection shall complete a registration statement, which shall be in a form prescribed by the superintendent. The information provided in the registration statement shall include, but shall not be limited to, the name and address of the person and the make, model, and serial number of the handgun being registered. Each registration statement shall be signed by the person, and the signature shall constitute a representation of the accuracy of the information contained in the registration statement.

The registration statement shall be submitted to the law enforcement agency of the municipality in which the person resides or, if the municipality does not have a municipal law enforcement agency, any State Police station.

Within 60 days prior to the effective date of P.L.2022, c.52, the superintendent shall prepare the form of registration statement as described in this subsection and shall provide a suitable supply of statements to each organized full-time municipal police department and each State Police station.

A person who fails to apply for a firearms purchaser identification card or register a handgun as required pursuant to this subsection shall be granted 30 days to comply with the provisions of this subsection. If the person does not comply within 30 days, the person shall be liable to a civil penalty of \$250 for a first offense and shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense for a second or subsequent offense.

If a person is in possession of multiple firearms or handguns in violation of this subsection, the person shall be guilty of one offense under this subsection provided the violation is a single event.

The civil penalty shall be collected pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.) in a summary proceeding before the municipal court having jurisdiction. 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 the enforcement of this subsection consistent with the Rules of Court.

S3811 BRAMNICK

p. A chief police officer or the superintendent may delegate to subordinate officers or employees of the law enforcement agency the responsibilities established pursuant to this section.

(cf: P.L.2022, c.131, s.2)

3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month next following the date of enactment, but the Superintendent of State Police may take anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Superintendent of State Police to establish an Internet-based "Do Not Sell" registry to prohibit the sale of firearms to any person residing in this State who has voluntarily requested to be included in the registry. Under the bill, a person would be permitted to voluntarily enter his or her name on the registry and be prohibited from purchasing a firearm. The person's information would be included among the criteria prohibiting a person from purchasing a firearm when a criminal history record background check is conducted.

The bill requires the superintendent to ensure that the Internetbased registry verifies the identity of a registered person, prevents unauthorized disclosures of personal information, and informs registered persons of the implications of being included in the registry.

Under the bill, a person would be permitted to submit email addresses of personal contacts. The bill requires the registry to be programmed to notify and advise via email the personal contacts that the registered person has included in the registry. The registry also would notify the same personal contacts via email if the registered person subsequently requests to be removed from the registry.

The bill allows a person who voluntarily registers to subsequently request through the Internet-based registry to have his or her information removed from the registry. The superintendent would be prohibited from removing the information until 21 days after the person's request. Following the request, the superintendent would be required to destroy all records of the registration, associated transactions, and the request for removal of that individual's name from the registry. Information regarding a person's registration would not be deemed a public record pursuant to the open public records act.

The bill requires the Attorney General to prepare and disseminate educational information regarding the "Do Not Sell"

S3811 BRAMNICK

16

registry to each psychiatric facility in the State which would be made available to the public.

Under the bill, it would be a crime of the third degree to transfer a firearm to a registered person with knowledge that the person receiving the firearm is included in the registry. In addition, it would be a crime of the third degree to knowingly register another person's information in the registry without that person's consent.

8 A crime of the third degree is punishable by fine of up to \$15,000, a

9 term of imprisonment between three and five years, or both.