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**HOUSE BILL NO. 702**

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 13, 2026

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-915.5 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 52 a chapter numbered 14, consisting of sections numbered 52-55 through 52-58, relating to Virginia Firearm Give-Back Program and Fund established.*

Patron—Cole, J.G.

Committee Referral Pending

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 15.2-915.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 52 a chapter numbered 14, consisting of sections numbered 52-55 through 52-58, as follows:**

**§ 15.2-915.5. Disposition of firearms acquired by local law-enforcement agencies or localities.**

A. No locality or agent of such locality may participate in any program in which individuals are given a thing of value provided by another individual or other entity in exchange for surrendering a firearm to the locality, or agent of such locality unless the governing body of the locality has enacted an ordinance, pursuant to § 15.2-1425, authorizing the participation of the locality or agent of such locality in such program.

B. Any ordinance enacted pursuant to this section shall require that any firearm received, except a firearm of the type defined in § 18.2-288 or 18.2-299 or a firearm the transfer for which is prohibited by federal law, as part of the Virginia Firearm Give-Back Program as authorized by the provisions in Chapter 14 (§ 52-55 et seq.) of Title 52 shall be destroyed by the local law-enforcement agency or locality unless the person surrendering the firearm requests in writing that the firearm be offered for sale by public auction or sealed bids to a person licensed as a dealer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq. Notice of the date, time, and place of any sale conducted pursuant to this subsection shall be given by advertisement in at least two newspapers published and having general circulation in the Commonwealth, at least one of which shall have general circulation in the locality in which the property to be sold is located. At least 30 days shall elapse between publication of the notice and the auction or the date on which sealed bids will be opened. Any firearm remaining in possession of the locality or agent of the locality after attempts to sell at public auction or by sealed bids shall be disposed of in a manner the locality deems proper, which may include destruction of the firearm or, subject to any registration requirements of federal law, sale of the firearm to a licensed dealer.

**CHAPTER 14.****VIRGINIA FIREARM GIVE-BACK PROGRAM AND FUND.****§ 52-55. Definitions.**

*As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:*

*"Firearm" means the same as that term is defined in § 18.2-308.2:2.*

*"Fund" means the Virginia Firearm Give-Back Fund established in § 52-58.*

*"Local law-enforcement agency" means any local police department or sheriff's office that is a part of or administered by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof.*

*"Program" means the Virginia Firearm Give-Back Program established in § 52-56.*

**§ 52-56. Virginia Firearm Give-Back Program; report.**

A. The Department of State Police (the Department) shall establish the Virginia Firearm Give-Back Program and develop policies for the establishment of uniform standards for the implementation of the Program among local law-enforcement agencies. Each regional division headquarters shall serve as a drop-off point for individuals to voluntarily give back firearms, which shall be subsequently destroyed by the Department. The Department shall (i) inform local law-enforcement agencies of the policies and procedures to be used for the Program and (ii) provide guidelines to participating local law-enforcement agencies on implementation of the Program, including (a) designating when and where a person may surrender a firearm; (b) the handling, storage, and disposal of surrendered firearms; and (c) the requirements for reporting to the Department any information about surrendered firearms.

B. The establishment of the Program by a local law-enforcement agency is voluntary, and nothing in this chapter shall be construed to be a mandate that a local law-enforcement agency establish or participate in the Program.

C. The Department shall submit a report on the Program to the General Assembly on or before November 1 each year. The report shall include the following: (i) the number of local law-enforcement agencies that participate in the Program or have established a local Program, (ii) the number of firearms that have been received back through the Program, and (iii) a summary on how the moneys in the Fund established by

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59     § 52-58 have been used for development and implementation of the Program.

60     **§ 52-57. Participation by a local law-enforcement agency; establishing a local Program.**

61     A local law-enforcement agency may establish a local Program, and a person may surrender a firearm to  
62     the participating local law-enforcement agency in accordance with § 52-56. The identity of any person who  
63     surrenders a firearm pursuant to this chapter shall be kept confidential.

64     **§ 52-58. Virginia Firearm Give-Back Fund.**

65     There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia  
66     Firearm Give-Back Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds  
67     appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its  
68     behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund  
69     shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon,  
70     at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the  
71     Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of development and implementation of the Program, including  
72     assisting local law-enforcement agencies with implementing the Program within such agencies' localities.  
73     Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by  
74     the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Superintendent.