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HOUSE BILL NO. 217

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the House Committee on Public Safety
on January 30, 2026)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Helmer)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-915.5, 18.2-308.09, 18.2-308.2:1, 18.2-308.2:2, 18.2-308.2:3, 18.2-308.2:5, 18.2-308.7, and 19.2-386.28 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 18.2-287.4:1, 18.2-308.1:9, and 18.2-309.1, relating to purchase, sale, transfer, etc., of assault firearms and certain ammunition feeding devices prohibited; penalties.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 15.2-915.5, 18.2-308.09, 18.2-308.2:1, 18.2-308.2:2, 18.2-308.2:3, 18.2-308.2:5, 18.2-308.7, and 19.2-386.28 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 18.2-287.4:1, 18.2-308.1:9, and 18.2-309.1 as follows:

§ 15.2-915.5. Disposition of firearms acquired by 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 (i) 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 or (ii) the program is a voluntary gun buy-back or give-back program for the surrendering of an assault firearm as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2.

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, shall be destroyed by the 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.

§ 18.2-287.4:1. Importation, sale, manufacture, etc., of assault firearms prohibited; penalty.

A. As used in this section, an "assault firearm" means the same as that term is defined in § 18.2-308.2:2.

B. Any person who imports, sells, manufactures, purchases, or transfers an assault firearm is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) any government officer, agent, or employee, member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or person authorized by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to the extent that such person is otherwise authorized to acquire or possess an assault firearm and does so while acting within the scope of his duties; (ii) the import of an assault firearm by any member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or his spouse, who possessed an assault firearm prior to being in the Commonwealth and is sent to the Commonwealth under lawful orders; (iii) the manufacture of an assault firearm by a firearms manufacturer for the purpose of sale to any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, to senior military colleges in the Commonwealth organized under 10 U.S.C. § 2111a(f), or to a law-enforcement agency in the Commonwealth for use by that agency or its employees, provided that the manufacturer is properly licensed under federal, state, and local laws; (iv) the sale or transfer of an assault firearm by a licensed dealer to another licensed dealer, or to any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States or to a law-enforcement agency in the Commonwealth for use by that agency or its employees; (v) any member of a cadet corps who is recognized by a public institution of higher education while such member is in the performance of lawful military training or such member is participating in an official ceremonial event for the Commonwealth; (vi) the sale of an assault firearm by a person who lawfully purchased and possessed such assault firearm prior to July 1, 2026, to a firearms dealer or to an individual outside of the Commonwealth who may lawfully possess such assault firearm; (vii) the temporary transfer of an assault firearm by a person who lawfully purchased and possessed such assault firearm prior to July 1, 2026, to a firearms dealer or gunsmith for service or repairs or the return of such assault firearm to its owner; (viii) the receipt of an assault firearm by inheritance, and possession of the inherited assault firearm if the decedent lawfully possessed such assault firearm prior to his death and the person inheriting such assault firearm is not prohibited from possessing firearms by state or federal law; or (ix) the transfer of an assault weapon as a gift to an immediate family member if the transferor lawfully purchased and possessed the assault firearm.

60 prior to July 1, 2026, and the immediate family member to whom the assault firearm is transferred is not
61 prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law. For the purposes of this subdivision,
62 "immediate family member" means a spouse, children, parents, and siblings.

63 **§ 18.2-308.09. Disqualifications for a concealed handgun permit.**

64 The following persons shall be deemed disqualified from obtaining a permit:

65 1. An individual who is ineligible to possess a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:1, 18.2-308.1:2,
66 18.2-308.1:3, 18.2-308.1:6, 18.2-308.1:7, ~~or~~ 18.2-308.1:8, or 18.2-308.1:9 or the substantially similar law of
67 any other state or of the United States.

68 2. An individual who was ineligible to possess a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:1 and who was
69 discharged from the custody of the Commissioner pursuant to § 19.2-182.7 less than five years before the
70 date of his application for a concealed handgun permit.

71 3. An individual who was ineligible to possess a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:2 and whose
72 competency or capacity was restored pursuant to § 64.2-2012 less than five years before the date of his
73 application for a concealed handgun permit.

74 4. An individual who was ineligible to possess a firearm under § 18.2-308.1:3 and who was released from
75 commitment less than five years before the date of this application for a concealed handgun permit.

76 5. An individual who is subject to a restraining order, or to a protective order and prohibited by
77 § 18.2-308.1:4 from purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm.

78 6. An individual who is prohibited by § 18.2-308.2 from possessing or transporting a firearm, except that
79 a restoration order may be obtained in accordance with subsection C of that section.

80 7. An individual who has been convicted of two or more misdemeanors within the five-year period
81 immediately preceding the application, if one of the misdemeanors was a Class 1 misdemeanor, but the judge
82 shall have the discretion to deny a permit for two or more misdemeanors that are not Class 1. Traffic
83 infractions and misdemeanors set forth in Title 46.2 shall not be considered for purposes of this
84 disqualification.

85 8. An individual who is addicted to, or is an unlawful user or distributor of, marijuana, synthetic
86 cannabinoids, or any controlled substance.

87 9. An individual who has been convicted of a violation of § 18.2-266 or a substantially similar local
88 ordinance, or of public drunkenness, or of a substantially similar offense under the laws of any other state, the
89 District of Columbia, the United States, or its territories within the three-year period immediately preceding
90 the application.

91 10. An alien other than an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

92 11. An individual who has been discharged from the armed forces of the United States under dishonorable
93 conditions.

94 12. An individual who is a fugitive from justice.

95 13. An individual who the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, based on specific acts by the
96 applicant, is likely to use a weapon unlawfully or negligently to endanger others. The sheriff, chief of police,
97 or attorney for the Commonwealth may submit to the court a sworn, written statement indicating that, in the
98 opinion of such sheriff, chief of police, or attorney for the Commonwealth, based upon a disqualifying
99 conviction or upon the specific acts set forth in the statement, the applicant is likely to use a weapon
100 unlawfully or negligently to endanger others. The statement of the sheriff, chief of police, or the attorney for
101 the Commonwealth shall be based upon personal knowledge of such individual or of a deputy sheriff, police
102 officer, or assistant attorney for the Commonwealth of the specific acts, or upon a written statement made
103 under oath before a notary public of a competent person having personal knowledge of the specific acts.

104 14. An individual who has been convicted of any assault, assault and battery, sexual battery, discharging
105 of a firearm in violation of § 18.2-280 or 18.2-286.1 or brandishing of a firearm in violation of § 18.2-282
106 within the three-year period immediately preceding the application.

107 15. An individual who has been convicted of stalking.

108 16. An individual whose previous convictions or adjudications of delinquency were based on an offense
109 that would have been at the time of conviction a felony if committed by an adult under the laws of any state,
110 the District of Columbia, the United States or its territories. For purposes of this disqualifier, only convictions
111 occurring within 16 years following the later of the date of (i) the conviction or adjudication or (ii) release
112 from any incarceration imposed upon such conviction or adjudication shall be deemed to be "previous
113 convictions." Disqualification under this subdivision shall not apply to an individual with previous
114 adjudications of delinquency who has completed a term of service of no less than two years in the Armed
115 Forces of the United States and, if such person has been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United
116 States, received an honorable discharge.

117 17. An individual who has a felony charge pending or a charge pending for an offense listed in
118 subdivision 14 or 15.

119 18. An individual who has received mental health treatment or substance abuse treatment in a residential
120 setting within five years prior to the date of his application for a concealed handgun permit.

121 19. An individual not otherwise ineligible pursuant to this article, who, within the three-year period

122 immediately preceding the application for the permit, was found guilty of any criminal offense set forth in
 123 Chapter 11 (§ 4.1-1100 et seq.) of Title 4.1, Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.), or former § 18.2-248.1:1 or of a
 124 criminal offense of illegal possession or distribution of marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, or any controlled
 125 substance, under the laws of any state, the District of Columbia, or the United States or its territories.

126 20. An individual, not otherwise ineligible pursuant to this article, with respect to whom, within the
 127 three-year period immediately preceding the application, upon a charge of any criminal offense set forth in
 128 Chapter 11 (§ 4.1-1100 et seq.) of Title 4.1, Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.), or former § 18.2-248.1:1 or upon a
 129 charge of illegal possession or distribution of marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, or any controlled substance
 130 under the laws of any state, the District of Columbia, or the United States or its territories, the trial court
 131 found that the facts of the case were sufficient for a finding of guilt and disposed of the case pursuant to
 132 § 18.2-251 or the substantially similar law of any other state, the District of Columbia, or the United States or
 133 its territories.

134 **§ 18.2-308.1:9. Purchase, possession, or transportation of firearm following conviction for importation,
 135 sale, possession, etc., of assault firearm; penalty.**

136 A. Any person who knowingly and intentionally purchases, possesses, or transports any firearm following
 137 a misdemeanor conviction for a violation of § 18.2-287.4:1 is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

138 B. Any person convicted of a violation of § 18.2-287.4:1 or this section shall be prohibited from
 139 purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm for three years following the date of such conviction at
 140 which point the person convicted of such offense shall no longer be prohibited from purchasing, possessing,
 141 or transporting a firearm pursuant to this section. Such person shall have his firearm rights restored, unless
 142 such person receives another disqualifying conviction, is subject to a protective order that would restrict his
 143 rights to carry a firearm, or is otherwise prohibited by law from purchasing, possessing, or transporting a
 144 firearm.

145 **§ 18.2-308.2:1. Prohibiting the selling, etc., of firearms to certain persons; penalties.**

146 Any person who sells, barters, gives, or furnishes, or has in his possession or under his control with the
 147 intent of selling, bartering, giving, or furnishing, any firearm to any person he knows is prohibited from
 148 possessing or transporting a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:1, 18.2-308.1:2, or 18.2-308.1:3, subsection B
 149 of § 18.2-308.1:4, § 18.2-308.1:6 or 18.2-308.2, subsection B of § 18.2-308.2:01, or § 18.2-308.7 is guilty of
 150 a Class 4 felony.

151 Any person who sells, barters, gives, or furnishes, or has in his possession or under his control with the
 152 intent of selling, bartering, giving, or furnishing, any firearm to any person he knows is prohibited from
 153 purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:7 or, 18.2-308.1:8, or 18.2-308.1:9
 154 is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

155 However, this prohibition shall not be applicable when the person convicted of the felony or
 156 misdemeanor, adjudicated delinquent, or acquitted by reason of insanity has (i) been issued a permit pursuant
 157 to subsection C of § 18.2-308.2 or been granted relief pursuant to subsection B of § 18.2-308.1:1 or
 158 § 18.2-308.1:2 or 18.2-308.1:3; (ii) been pardoned or had his political disabilities removed in accordance with
 159 subsection B of § 18.2-308.2; or (iii) obtained a permit to ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms
 160 pursuant to the laws of the United States.

161 **§ 18.2-308.2:2. Criminal history record information check required for the transfer of certain
 162 firearms.**

163 A. Any person purchasing from a dealer a firearm as *herein* defined *in this section* shall consent in
 164 writing, on a form to be provided by the Department of State Police, to have the dealer obtain criminal history
 165 record information. Such form shall include only the written consent; the name, birth date, gender, race,
 166 citizenship, and social security number and/or any other identification number; the number of firearms by
 167 category intended to be sold, rented, traded, or transferred; and answers by the applicant to the following
 168 questions: (i) has the applicant been convicted of a felony offense or a misdemeanor offense listed in
 169 § 18.2-308.1:8 or 18.2-308.1:9 or found guilty or adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile 14 years of age or
 170 older at the time of the offense of a delinquent act that if committed by an adult would be a felony or a
 171 misdemeanor listed in § 18.2-308.1:8 or 18.2-308.1:9; (ii) is the applicant subject to a court order restraining
 172 the applicant from harassing, stalking, or threatening the applicant's child or intimate partner, or a child of
 173 such partner, or is the applicant subject to a protective order; (iii) has the applicant ever been acquitted by
 174 reason of insanity and prohibited from purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm pursuant to
 175 § 18.2-308.1:1 or any substantially similar law of any other jurisdiction, been adjudicated legally
 176 incompetent, mentally incapacitated, or adjudicated an incapacitated person and prohibited from purchasing a
 177 firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:2 or any substantially similar law of any other jurisdiction, been
 178 involuntarily admitted to an inpatient facility or involuntarily ordered to outpatient mental health treatment
 179 and prohibited from purchasing a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:3 or any substantially similar law of any
 180 other jurisdiction, or been the subject of a temporary detention order pursuant to § 37.2-809 and subsequently
 181 agreed to a voluntary admission pursuant to § 37.2-805; and (iv) is the applicant subject to an emergency
 182 substantial risk order or a substantial risk order entered pursuant to § 19.2-152.13 or 19.2-152.14 and
 183 prohibited from purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:6 or any

184 substantially similar law of any other jurisdiction.

185 B. 1. No dealer shall sell, rent, trade, or transfer from his inventory any such firearm to any other person
186 who is a resident of Virginia until he has (i) obtained written consent and the other information on the consent
187 form specified in subsection A, and provided the Department of State Police with the name, birth date,
188 gender, race, citizenship, and social security and/or any other identification number and the number of
189 firearms by category intended to be sold, rented, traded, or transferred and (ii) requested criminal history
190 record information by a telephone call to or other communication authorized by the State Police and is
191 authorized by subdivision 2 to complete the sale or other such transfer. To establish personal identification
192 and residence in Virginia for purposes of this section, a dealer must require any prospective purchaser to
193 present one photo-identification form issued by a governmental agency of the Commonwealth or by the
194 United States Department of Defense or a special identification card without a photograph issued pursuant to
195 § 46.2-345.2 that demonstrates that the prospective purchaser resides in Virginia. For the purposes of this
196 section and establishment of residency for firearm purchase, residency of a member of the armed forces shall
197 include both the state in which the member's permanent duty post is located and any nearby state in which the
198 member resides and from which he commutes to the permanent duty post. A member of the armed forces
199 whose photo identification issued by the Department of Defense does not have a Virginia address may
200 establish his Virginia residency with such photo identification and either permanent orders assigning the
201 purchaser to a duty post, including the Pentagon, in Virginia or the purchaser's Leave and Earnings
202 Statement. When the identification presented to a dealer by the prospective purchaser is a driver's license or
203 other photo identification issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles or a special identification card without
204 a photograph issued pursuant to § 46.2-345.2, and such identification form or card contains a date of issue,
205 the dealer shall not, except for a renewed driver's license or other photo identification issued by the
206 Department of Motor Vehicles or a renewed special identification card without a photograph issued pursuant
207 to § 46.2-345.2, sell or otherwise transfer a firearm to the prospective purchaser until 30 days after the date of
208 issue of an original or duplicate driver's license or special identification card without a photograph unless the
209 prospective purchaser also presents a copy of his Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles driver's record
210 showing that the original date of issue of the driver's license was more than 30 days prior to the attempted
211 purchase.

212 In addition, no dealer shall sell, rent, trade, or transfer from his inventory any assault firearm to any
213 person who is not a citizen of the United States or who is not a person lawfully admitted for permanent
214 residence.

215 Upon receipt of the request for a criminal history record information check, the State Police shall (a)
216 review its criminal history record information to determine if the buyer or transferee is prohibited from
217 possessing or transporting a firearm by state or federal law, (b) inform the dealer if its record indicates that
218 the buyer or transferee is so prohibited, and (c) provide the dealer with a unique reference number for that
219 inquiry.

220 2. The State Police shall provide its response to the requesting dealer during the dealer's request or by
221 return call without delay. A dealer who fulfills the requirements of subdivision 1 and is told by the State
222 Police that a response will not be available by the end of the dealer's fifth business day may immediately
223 complete the sale or transfer and shall not be deemed in violation of this section with respect to such sale or
224 transfer.

225 3. Except as required by subsection D of § 9.1-132, the State Police shall not maintain records longer than
226 30 days, except for multiple handgun transactions for which records shall be maintained for 12 months, from
227 any dealer's request for a criminal history record information check pertaining to a buyer or transferee who is
228 not found to be prohibited from possessing and transporting a firearm under state or federal law. However,
229 the log on requests made may be maintained for a period of 12 months, and such log shall consist of the name
230 of the purchaser, the dealer identification number, the unique approval number, and the transaction date.

231 4. On the last day of the week following the sale or transfer of any firearm, the dealer shall mail or deliver
232 the written consent form required by subsection A to the Department of State Police. The State Police shall
233 immediately initiate a search of all available criminal history record information to determine if the purchaser
234 is prohibited from possessing or transporting a firearm under state or federal law. If the search discloses
235 information indicating that the buyer or transferee is so prohibited from possessing or transporting a firearm,
236 the State Police shall inform the chief law-enforcement officer in the jurisdiction where the sale or transfer
237 occurred and the dealer without delay.

238 5. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, rifles and shotguns may be purchased by persons
239 who are citizens of the United States or persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence but residents of
240 other states under the terms of subsections A and B upon furnishing the dealer with one photo-identification
241 form issued by a governmental agency of the person's state of residence and one other form of identification
242 determined to be acceptable by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

243 6. For the purposes of this subsection, the phrase "dealer's fifth business day" does not include December
244 25.

245 C. No dealer shall sell, rent, trade, or transfer from his inventory any firearm, except when the transaction

246 involves a rifle or a shotgun and can be accomplished pursuant to the provisions of subdivision B 5, to any
 247 person who is a dual resident of Virginia and another state pursuant to applicable federal law unless he has
 248 first obtained from the Department of State Police a report indicating that a search of all available criminal
 249 history record information has not disclosed that the person is prohibited from possessing or transporting a
 250 firearm under state or federal law.

251 To establish personal identification and dual resident eligibility for purposes of this subsection, a dealer
 252 shall require any prospective purchaser to present one photo-identification form issued by a governmental
 253 agency of the prospective purchaser's state of legal residence and other documentation of dual residence
 254 within the Commonwealth. The other documentation of dual residence in the Commonwealth may include (i)
 255 evidence of currently paid personal property tax or real estate tax or a current (a) lease, (b) utility or telephone
 256 bill, (c) voter registration card, (d) bank check, (e) passport, (f) automobile registration, or (g) hunting or
 257 fishing license; (ii) other current identification allowed as evidence of residency by 27 C.F.R. § 178.124 and
 258 ATF Ruling 2001-5; or (iii) other documentation of residence determined to be acceptable by the Department
 259 of Criminal Justice Services and that corroborates that the prospective purchaser currently resides in Virginia.

260 D. If any buyer or transferee is denied the right to purchase a firearm under this section, he may exercise
 261 his right of access to and review and correction of criminal history record information under § 9.1-132 or
 262 institute a civil action as provided in § 9.1-135, provided any such action is initiated within 30 days of such
 263 denial.

264 E. Any dealer who willfully and intentionally requests, obtains, or seeks to obtain criminal history record
 265 information under false pretenses, or who willfully and intentionally disseminates or seeks to disseminate
 266 criminal history record information except as authorized in this section, ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class 2
 267 misdemeanor.

268 F. For purposes of this section:

269 "Actual buyer" means a person who executes the consent form required in subsection B or C, or other
 270 such firearm transaction records as may be required by federal law.

271 "Antique firearm" means:

272 1. Any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of
 273 ignition system) manufactured in or before 1898;

274 2. Any replica of any firearm described in subdivision 1 of this definition if such replica (i) is not designed
 275 or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition or (ii) uses rimfire or
 276 conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United States and that is not
 277 readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade;

278 3. Any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading pistol that is designed to use
 279 black powder, or a black powder substitute, and that cannot use fixed ammunition. For purposes of this
 280 subdivision, the term "antique firearm" shall not include any weapon that incorporates a firearm frame or
 281 receiver, any firearm that is converted into a muzzle-loading weapon, or any muzzle-loading weapon that can
 282 be readily converted to fire fixed ammunition by replacing the barrel, bolt, breech-block, or any combination
 283 thereof; or

284 4. Any curio or relic as defined in this subsection.

285 "Assault firearm" means ~~any~~:

286 1. A semi-automatic center-fire rifle or pistol ~~which expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an
 287 explosion of a combustible material and is equipped at the time of the offense with a magazine which will
 288 hold more than 20 rounds of ammunition or designed by the manufacturer to accommodate a silencer or
 289 equipped with a folding stock with a fixed magazine capacity in excess of 10 rounds;~~

290 2. A semi-automatic center-fire rifle that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine, not including an
 291 attached tubular device designed to accept and capable of operating only with .22 caliber rimfire
 292 ammunition, and that has one or more of the following characteristics: (i) a folding, telescoping, or
 293 collapsible stock; (ii) a thumbhole stock or pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the
 294 rifle; (iii) a second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the non-trigger hand; (iv) a grenade
 295 launcher; or (v) a threaded barrel capable of accepting (a) a muzzle brake, (b) a muzzle compensator, (c) a
 296 sound suppressor, or (d) a flash suppressor;

297 3. A semi-automatic center-fire pistol that has two or more of the following characteristics: (i) a second
 298 handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the non-trigger hand; (ii) the capacity to accept a
 299 magazine that attaches to the pistol outside of the pistol grip; (iii) a shroud that is attached to, or partially or
 300 completely encircles, the barrel and that permits the shooter to hold the pistol with the non-trigger hand
 301 without being burned; (iv) a threaded barrel capable of accepting (a) a sound suppressor, (b) a flash
 302 suppressor, (c) a barrel extender, or (d) a forward handgrip; or (v) a buffer tube, arm brace, or other part
 303 that protrudes horizontally behind the pistol grip and is designed or redesigned to allow or facilitate the
 304 firing of a firearm from the shoulder;

305 4. A semi-automatic shotgun that expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a
 306 combustible material that has one of the following characteristics: (i) a folding, telescoping, or collapsible
 307 stock; (ii) a thumbhole stock or pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the shotgun;

308 (iii) the ability to accept a detachable magazine; (iv) a fixed magazine capacity in excess of seven rounds; or
309 (v) any characteristic of like kind as enumerated in clauses (i) through (iv);
310 5. A shotgun with a revolving cylinder;
311 6. A firearm that has the capacity to accept a belt ammunition feeding device; or
312 7. A firearm that has been modified to be operable as an assault firearm as described in subdivisions 1
313 through 6.

314 An "assault firearm" does not include any firearm that is an antique firearm, has been rendered
315 permanently inoperable, or is manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action.

316 "Curios or relics" means firearms that are of special interest to collectors by reason of some quality other
317 than is associated with firearms intended for sporting use or as offensive or defensive weapons. To be
318 recognized as curios or relics, firearms must fall within one of the following categories:

319 1. Firearms that were manufactured at least 50 years prior to the current date, which use rimfire or
320 conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United States and that is not
321 readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade, but not including replicas thereof;

322 2. Firearms that are certified by the curator of a municipal, state, or federal museum that exhibits firearms
323 to be curios or relics of museum interest; and

324 3. Any other firearms that derive a substantial part of their monetary value from the fact that they are
325 novel, rare, bizarre, or because of their association with some historical figure, period, or event. Proof of
326 qualification of a particular firearm under this category may be established by evidence of present value and
327 evidence that like firearms are not available except as collectors' items, or that the value of like firearms
328 available in ordinary commercial channels is substantially less.

329 "Dealer" means any person licensed as a dealer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq.

330 "Firearm" means any handgun, shotgun, or rifle that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to
331 expel single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material.

332 "Handgun" means any pistol or revolver or other firearm originally designed, made and intended to fire
333 single or multiple projectiles by means of an explosion of a combustible material from one or more barrels
334 when held in one hand.

335 "Lawfully admitted for permanent residence" means the status of having been lawfully accorded the
336 privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant in accordance with the immigration
337 laws, such status not having changed.

338 G. The Department of Criminal Justice Services shall promulgate regulations to ensure the identity,
339 confidentiality, and security of all records and data provided by the Department of State Police pursuant to
340 this section.

341 H. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) transactions between persons who are licensed as
342 firearms importers or collectors, manufacturers or dealers pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq.; (ii) purchases
343 by or sales to any law-enforcement officer or agent of the United States, the Commonwealth or any local
344 government, or any campus police officer appointed under Article 3 (§ 23.1-809 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title
345 23.1; or (iii) antique firearms or curios or relics.

346 I. The provisions of this section shall not apply to restrict purchase, trade, or transfer of firearms by a
347 resident of Virginia when the resident of Virginia makes such purchase, trade, or transfer in another state, in
348 which case the laws and regulations of that state and the United States governing the purchase, trade, or
349 transfer of firearms shall apply. A National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) check shall
350 be performed prior to such purchase, trade, or transfer of firearms.

351 J. All licensed firearms dealers shall collect a fee of \$2 for every transaction for which a criminal history
352 record information check is required pursuant to this section, except that a fee of \$5 shall be collected for
353 every transaction involving an out-of-state resident. Such fee shall be transmitted to the Department of State
354 Police by the last day of the month following the sale for deposit in a special fund for use by the State Police
355 to offset the cost of conducting criminal history record information checks under the provisions of this
356 section.

357 K. Any person willfully and intentionally making a materially false statement on the consent form
358 required in subsection B or C or on such firearm transaction records as may be required by federal law shall
359 be is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

360 L. Except as provided in § 18.2-308.2:1, any dealer who willfully and intentionally sells, rents, trades, or
361 transfers a firearm in violation of this section shall be is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

362 L1. Any person who attempts to solicit, persuade, encourage, or entice any dealer to transfer or otherwise
363 convey a firearm other than to the actual buyer, as well as any other person who willfully and intentionally
364 aids or abets such person, shall be is guilty of a Class 6 felony. This subsection shall not apply to a federal
365 law-enforcement officer or a law-enforcement officer as defined in § 9.1-101, in the performance of his
366 official duties, or other person under his direct supervision.

367 M. Any person who purchases a firearm with the intent to (i) resell or otherwise provide such firearm to
368 any person who he knows or has reason to believe is ineligible to purchase or otherwise receive from a dealer
369 a firearm for whatever reason or (ii) transport such firearm out of the Commonwealth to be resold or

370 otherwise provided to another person who the transferor knows is ineligible to purchase or otherwise receive
 371 a firearm; ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class 4 felony and sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment
 372 of one year. However, if the violation of this subsection involves such a transfer of more than one firearm, the
 373 person shall be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years. The prohibitions of
 374 this subsection shall not apply to the purchase of a firearm by a person for the lawful use, possession, or
 375 transport thereof, pursuant to § 18.2-308.7, by his child, grandchild, or individual for whom he is the legal
 376 guardian if such child, grandchild, or individual is ineligible, solely because of his age, to purchase a firearm.

377 N. Any person who is ineligible to purchase or otherwise receive or possess a firearm in the
 378 Commonwealth who solicits, employs, or assists any person in violating subsection M ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a
 379 Class 4 felony and shall be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years.

380 O. Any mandatory minimum sentence imposed under this section shall be served consecutively with any
 381 other sentence.

382 P. All driver's licenses issued on or after July 1, 1994, shall carry a letter designation indicating whether
 383 the driver's license is an original, duplicate, or renewed driver's license.

384 Q. Prior to selling, renting, trading, or transferring any firearm owned by the dealer but not in his
 385 inventory to any other person, a dealer may require such other person to consent to have the dealer obtain
 386 criminal history record information to determine if such other person is prohibited from possessing or
 387 transporting a firearm by state or federal law. The Department of State Police shall establish policies and
 388 procedures in accordance with 28 C.F.R. § 25.6 to permit such determinations to be made by the Department
 389 of State Police, and the processes established for making such determinations shall conform to the provisions
 390 of this section.

391 R. Except as provided in subdivisions 1 and 2, it ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person who is not a licensed
 392 firearms dealer to purchase more than one handgun within any 30-day period. For the purposes of this
 393 subsection, "purchase" does not include the exchange or replacement of a handgun by a seller for a handgun
 394 purchased from such seller by the same person seeking the exchange or replacement within the 30-day period
 395 immediately preceding the date of exchange or replacement. A violation of this subsection is punishable as a
 396 Class 1 misdemeanor.

397 1. Purchases in excess of one handgun within a 30-day period may be made upon completion of an
 398 enhanced background check, as described in this subsection, by special application to the Department of State
 399 Police listing the number and type of handguns to be purchased and transferred for lawful business or
 400 personal use, in a collector series, for collections, as a bulk purchase from estate sales, and for similar
 401 purposes. Such applications shall be signed under oath by the applicant on forms provided by the Department
 402 of State Police, shall state the purpose for the purchase above the limit, and shall require satisfactory proof of
 403 residency and identity. Such application shall be in addition to the firearms sales report required by the
 404 federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The Superintendent of State Police
 405 shall promulgate regulations, pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), for the
 406 implementation of an application process for purchases of handguns above the limit.

407 Upon being satisfied that these requirements have been met, the Department of State Police shall
 408 immediately issue to the applicant a nontransferable certificate, which shall be valid for seven days from the
 409 date of issue. The certificate shall be surrendered to the dealer by the prospective purchaser prior to the
 410 consummation of such sale and shall be kept on file at the dealer's place of business for inspection as
 411 provided in § 54.1-4201 for a period of not less than two years. Upon request of any local law-enforcement
 412 agency, and pursuant to its regulations, the Department of State Police may certify such local
 413 law-enforcement agency to serve as its agent to receive applications and, upon authorization by the
 414 Department of State Police, issue certificates immediately pursuant to this subdivision. Applications and
 415 certificates issued under this subdivision shall be maintained as records as provided in subdivision B 3. The
 416 Department of State Police shall make available to local law-enforcement agencies all records concerning
 417 certificates issued pursuant to this subdivision and all records provided for in subdivision B 3.

418 2. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to:

- 419 a. A law-enforcement agency;
- 420 b. An agency duly authorized to perform law-enforcement duties;
- 421 c. A state or local correctional facility;
- 422 d. A private security company licensed to do business within the Commonwealth;
- 423 e. The purchase of antique firearms;
- 424 f. A person whose handgun is stolen or irretrievably lost who deems it essential that such handgun be
 425 replaced immediately. Such person may purchase another handgun, even if the person has previously
 426 purchased a handgun within a 30-day period, provided that (i) the person provides the firearms dealer with a
 427 copy of the official police report or a summary thereof, on forms provided by the Department of State Police,
 428 from the law-enforcement agency that took the report of the lost or stolen handgun; (ii) the official police
 429 report or summary thereof contains the name and address of the handgun owner, a description of the
 430 handgun, the location of the loss or theft, the date of the loss or theft, and the date the loss or theft was
 431 reported to the law-enforcement agency; and (iii) the date of the loss or theft as reflected on the official police

432 report or summary thereof occurred within 30 days of the person's attempt to replace the handgun. The
433 firearms dealer shall attach a copy of the official police report or summary thereof to the original copy of the
434 Virginia firearms transaction report completed for the transaction and retain it for the period prescribed by the
435 Department of State Police;

436 g. A person who trades in a handgun at the same time he makes a handgun purchase and as a part of the
437 same transaction, provided that no more than one transaction of this nature is completed per day;

438 h. A person who holds a valid Virginia permit to carry a concealed handgun;

439 i. A person who purchases a handgun in a private sale. For purposes of this subdivision, "private sale"
440 means a purchase from a person who makes occasional sales, exchanges, or purchases of firearms for the
441 enhancement of a personal collection of curios or relics or who sells all or part of such collection of curios
442 and relics; or

443 j. A law-enforcement officer. For purposes of this subdivision, "law-enforcement officer" means any
444 employee of a police department or sheriff's office that is part of or administered by the Commonwealth or
445 any political subdivision thereof and who is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the
446 enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of the Commonwealth.

447 **§ 18.2-308.2:3. Criminal background check required for employees of a gun dealer to transfer
448 firearms; exemptions; penalties.**

449 A. No person, corporation, or proprietorship licensed as a firearms dealer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921 et
450 seq. shall employ any person to act as a seller, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, temporary, paid or
451 unpaid, for the transfer of firearms under § 18.2-308.2:2, if such employee would be prohibited from
452 possessing a firearm under § 18.2-308.1:1, 18.2-308.1:2, or 18.2-308.1:3, subsection B of § 18.2-308.1:4, or
453 § 18.2-308.1:6, 18.2-308.1:7, 18.2-308.1:8, 18.2-308.1:9, 18.2-308.2, or 18.2-308.2:01, or is an illegal alien,
454 or is prohibited from purchasing or transporting a firearm pursuant to subsection A of § 18.2-308.1:4 or
455 § 18.2-308.1:5.

456 B. Prior to permitting an applicant to begin employment, the dealer shall obtain a written statement or
457 affirmation from the applicant that he is not disqualified from possessing a firearm and shall submit the
458 applicant's fingerprints and personal descriptive information to the Central Criminal Records Exchange to be
459 forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the purpose of obtaining national criminal history
460 record information regarding the applicant.

461 C. Prior to August 1, 2000, the dealer shall obtain written statements or affirmations from persons
462 employed before July 1, 2000, to act as a seller under § 18.2-308.2:2 that they are not disqualified from
463 possessing a firearm. Within five working days of the employee's next birthday, after August 1, 2000, the
464 dealer shall submit the employee's fingerprints and personal descriptive information to the Central Criminal
465 Records Exchange to be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the purpose of obtaining
466 national criminal history record information regarding the request.

467 C1. In lieu of submitting fingerprints pursuant to this section, any dealer holding a valid federal firearms
468 license (FFL) issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) may submit a sworn and
469 notarized affidavit to the Department of State Police on a form provided by the Department, stating that the
470 dealer has been subjected to a record check prior to the issuance and that the FFL was issued by the ATF. The
471 affidavit may also contain the names of any employees that have been subjected to a record check and
472 approved by the ATF. This exemption shall apply regardless of whether the FFL was issued in the name of
473 the dealer or in the name of the business. The affidavit shall contain the valid FFL number, state the name of
474 each person requesting the exemption, together with each person's identifying information, including their
475 social security number and the following statement: "I hereby swear, under the penalty of perjury, that as a
476 condition of obtaining a federal firearms license, each person requesting an exemption in this affidavit has
477 been subjected to a fingerprint identification check by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the
478 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms subsequently determined that each person satisfied the
479 requirements of 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq. I understand that any person convicted of making a false statement in
480 this affidavit is guilty of a Class 5 felony and that in addition to any other penalties imposed by law, a
481 conviction under this section shall result in the forfeiture of my federal firearms license."

482 D. The Department of State Police, upon receipt of an individual's record or notification that no record
483 exists, shall submit an eligibility report to the requesting dealer within 30 days of the applicant beginning his
484 duties for new employees or within 30 days of the applicant's birthday for a person employed prior to July 1,
485 2000.

486 E. If any applicant is denied employment because of information appearing on the criminal history record
487 and the applicant disputes the information upon which the denial was based, the Central Criminal Records
488 Exchange shall, upon written request, furnish to the applicant the procedures for obtaining a copy of the
489 criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The information provided to the dealer shall
490 not be disseminated except as provided in this section.

491 F. The applicant shall bear the cost of obtaining the criminal history record unless the dealer, at his option,
492 decides to pay such cost.

493 G. Upon receipt of the request for a criminal history record information check, the State Police shall

494 establish a unique number for that firearm seller. Beginning September 1, 2001, the firearm seller's signature,
 495 firearm seller's number and the dealer's identification number shall be on all firearm transaction forms. The
 496 State Police shall void the firearm seller's number when a disqualifying record is discovered. The State Police
 497 may suspend a firearm seller's identification number upon the arrest of the firearm seller for a potentially
 498 disqualifying crime.

499 H. This section shall not restrict the transfer of a firearm at any place other than at a dealership or at any
 500 event required to be registered as a gun show.

501 I. Any person who willfully and intentionally requests, obtains, or seeks to obtain criminal history record
 502 information under false pretenses, or who willfully and intentionally disseminates or seeks to disseminate
 503 criminal history record information except as authorized by this section and § 18.2-308.2:2, ~~shall be~~ is guilty
 504 of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

505 J. Any person willfully and intentionally making a materially false statement on the personal descriptive
 506 information required in this section ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class 5 felony. Any person who offers for transfer
 507 any firearm in violation of this section ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any dealer who willfully
 508 and knowingly employs or permits a person to act as a firearm seller in violation of this section ~~shall be~~ is
 509 guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

510 K. There is no civil liability for any seller for the actions of any purchaser or subsequent transferee of a
 511 firearm lawfully transferred pursuant to this section.

512 L. The provisions of this section requiring a seller's background check shall not apply to a licensed dealer.

513 M. Any person who willfully and intentionally makes a false statement in the affidavit as set out in
 514 subdivision C 1 ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

515 N. For purposes of this section:

516 "Dealer" means any person, corporation or proprietorship licensed as a dealer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921
 517 et seq.

518 "Firearm" means any handgun, shotgun, or rifle that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to
 519 expel single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material.

520 "Place of business" means any place or premises where a dealer may lawfully transfer firearms.

521 "Seller" means for the purpose of any single sale of a firearm any person who is a dealer or an agent of a
 522 dealer, who may lawfully transfer firearms and who actually performs the criminal background check in
 523 accordance with the provisions of § 18.2-308.2:2.

524 "Transfer" means any act performed with intent to sell, rent, barter, or trade or otherwise transfer
 525 ownership or permanent possession of a firearm at the place of business of a dealer.

526 **§ 18.2-308.2:5. Criminal history record information check required to sell firearm; penalties.**

527 A. No person shall sell a firearm for money, goods, services or anything else of value unless he has
 528 obtained verification from a licensed dealer in firearms that information on the prospective purchaser has
 529 been submitted for a criminal history record information check as set out in § 18.2-308.2:2 and that a
 530 determination has been received from the Department of State Police that the prospective purchaser is not
 531 prohibited under state or federal law from possessing a firearm or such sale is specifically exempted by state
 532 or federal law. The Department of State Police shall provide a means by which sellers may obtain from
 533 designated licensed dealers the approval or denial of firearm transfer requests, based on criminal history
 534 record information checks. The processes established shall conform to the provisions of § 18.2-308.2:2, and
 535 the definitions and provisions of § 18.2-308.2:2 regarding criminal history record information checks shall
 536 apply to this section mutatis mutandis. The designated dealer shall collect and disseminate the fees prescribed
 537 in § 18.2-308.2:2 as required by that section. The dealer may charge and retain an additional fee not to exceed
 538 \$15 for obtaining a criminal history record information check on behalf of a seller.

539 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A and unless otherwise prohibited by *subsection E* or
 540 state or federal law, a person may sell a firearm to another person if:

541 1. The sale of a firearm is to an authorized representative of the Commonwealth or any subdivision
 542 thereof as part of an authorized voluntary gun buy-back or give-back program;

543 2. The sale occurs at a firearms show, as defined in § 54.1-4200, and the seller has received a
 544 determination from the Department of State Police that the purchaser is not prohibited under state or federal
 545 law from possessing a firearm in accordance with § 54.1-4201.2; or

546 3. The sale of a firearm is conducted pursuant to § 59.1-148.3, with the exception of a sale conducted
 547 pursuant to subsection C of § 59.1-148.3.

548 C. Any person who willfully and intentionally sells a firearm to another person without obtaining
 549 verification in accordance with this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

550 D. Any person who willfully and intentionally purchases a firearm from another person without obtaining
 551 verification in accordance with this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

552 E. *No person shall sell an assault firearm as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2 for money, goods, services, or
 553 anything else of value.*

554 Any person who willfully and intentionally (i) sells an assault firearm as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2 to
 555 another person or (ii) purchases an assault firearm as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2 from another person is guilty

556 of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

557 **§ 18.2-308.7. Possession or transportation of certain firearms by persons under the age of 18; penalty.**

559 It shall be is unlawful for any person under 18 years of age to knowingly and intentionally possess or
560 transport a handgun or assault firearm as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2 anywhere in the Commonwealth. For the
561 purposes of this section, "handgun" means any pistol or revolver or other firearm originally designed, made
562 and intended to fire single or multiple projectiles by means of an explosion of a combustible material from
563 one or more barrels when held in one hand and "assault firearm" means any (i) semi-automatic centerfire rifle
564 or pistol which expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material and is
565 equipped at the time of the offense with a magazine which will hold more than 20 rounds of ammunition or
566 designed by the manufacturer to accommodate a silencer or equipped with a folding stock or (ii) shotgun with
567 a magazine which will hold more than seven rounds of the longest ammunition for which it is chambered. A
568 violation of this section shall be is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

569 This section shall not apply to:

570 1. Any person (i) while in his home or on his property; (ii) while in the home or on the property of his
571 parent, grandparent, or legal guardian; or (iii) while on the property of another who has provided prior
572 permission, and with the prior permission of his parent or legal guardian if the person has the landowner's
573 written permission on his person while on such property;

574 2. Any person who, while accompanied by an adult, is at, or going to and from, a lawful shooting range or
575 firearms educational class, provided that the weapons are unloaded while being transported;

576 3. Any person actually engaged in lawful hunting or going to and from a hunting area or preserve,
577 provided that the weapons are unloaded while being transported; and

578 4. Any person while carrying out his duties in the Armed Forces of the United States or the National
579 Guard of this Commonwealth or any other state.

580 **§ 18.2-309.1. Sale, transfer, etc., of certain firearms magazines prohibited; penalty.**

581 A. As used in this section, a "large capacity ammunition feeding device" means a magazine, belt, drum,
582 feed strip, or similar device that has a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or converted to accept,
583 more than 10 rounds of ammunition but does not include an attached tubular device designed to accept and
584 capable of operating only with .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.

585 B. Any person who imports, sells, barter, transfers, or purchases a large capacity ammunition feeding
586 device is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

587 C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the manufacture by, transfer to, or possession of a
588 large capacity ammunition feeding device by the Commonwealth or a department, agency, or political
589 subdivision of the Commonwealth; transfer to or possession of a large capacity ammunition feeding device by
590 a law-enforcement officer employed by such an entity for purposes of law enforcement; possession of a large
591 capacity ammunition feeding device by an individual who is retired from service with a law-enforcement
592 agency and is not otherwise prohibited from receiving ammunition transferred to the individual by the law-
593 enforcement agency upon his retirement; or possession of a large capacity ammunition feeding device that
594 has been permanently modified such that it cannot accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

595 **§ 19.2-386.28. Forfeiture of weapons, etc., that are concealed, possessed, transported, or carried in
596 violation of law.**

597 If any firearm, stun weapon as defined by § 18.2-308.1, weapon, magazine, auto sear, or trigger activator
598 is concealed, possessed, transported, or carried in violation of § 18.2-283.1, 18.2-287.01, 18.2-287.4,
599 18.2-287.4:1, 18.2-308.1:2, 18.2-308.1:3, 18.2-308.1:4, 18.2-308.1:8, 18.2-308.1:9, 18.2-308.2,
600 18.2-308.2:01, 18.2-308.2:1, 18.2-308.4, 18.2-308.5, 18.2-308.5:1, 18.2-308.7, or 18.2-308.8, or 18.2-309.1,
601 it shall be forfeited to the Commonwealth and disposed of as provided in § 19.2-386.29.

602 **2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or
603 commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary
604 appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities;
605 therefore, Chapter 725 of the Acts of Assembly of 2025 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing
606 Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of
607 Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of
608 commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.**