

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 687

To provide for the mandatory licensing and registration of handguns, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2019

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr.
SIREs) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for the mandatory licensing and registration of
handguns, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Handgun Licensing
5 and Registration Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL HANDGUN LICENSING AND REGISTRA-**
 2 **TION SYSTEM TO APPLY IN ANY STATE THAT**
 3 **DOES NOT HAVE A HANDGUN LICENSING AND**
 4 **REGISTRATION SYSTEM THAT MEETS CER-**
 5 **TAIN REQUIREMENTS.**

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

9 **“§ 932. Licensing and registration of handguns**

10 “(a)(1) The Attorney General of the United States
 11 shall establish a Federal system for the licensing and reg-
 12 istration of all handguns owned, possessed, or controlled
 13 in the United States—

14 “(A) under which—

15 “(i) a person shall not be eligible to receive
 16 such a license if the person—

17 “(I) has not attained 21 years of age;

18 “(II) is not a citizen, national, or law-
 19 ful permanent resident of the United
 20 States;

21 “(III) has not completed training in
 22 firearms safety;

23 “(IV) as part of the process for apply-
 24 ing for such a license—

1 “(aa) has not submitted to a
2 background investigation and criminal
3 history check of the person; or

4 “(bb) has not submitted the fin-
5 gerprints of the person and a recent
6 photograph that clearly shows the face
7 of the person; or

8 “(V) is prohibited by Federal law
9 from possessing a firearm; and

10 “(ii) such a license shall expire not more
11 than 5 years after issuance; and

12 “(B) which shall include a method for easily re-
13 trieving information sufficient to identify—

14 “(i) each resident of a State to which this
15 subsection applies who owns, possesses, or con-
16 trols a handgun; and

17 “(ii) the handgun.

18 “(2) It shall be unlawful for a person to own, possess,
19 or control a handgun in a State to which this subsection
20 applies unless the person—

21 “(A) is licensed to do so by the system estab-
22 lished pursuant to paragraph (1); and

23 “(B) has registered the handgun with a Fed-
24 eral, State, or local law enforcement agency.

1 “(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in a State if there
2 is in effect a certification by the Attorney General of the
3 United States that the State has in effect a system for
4 the licensing and registration of handguns owned, pos-
5 sessed, or controlled in the State that—

6 “(1) meets the requirements of subsection
7 (a)(1)(A);

8 “(2) includes a method for easily retrieving in-
9 formation sufficient to identify—

10 “(A) each resident of the State who owns,
11 possesses, or controls a handgun in the State;
12 and

13 “(B) the handgun; and

14 “(3) at a minimum, imposes criminal penalties
15 on any person who—

16 “(A) owns, possesses, or controls a hand-
17 gun in the State, and—

18 “(i) is not licensed by the State to
19 possess a handgun; or

20 “(ii) has not registered the handgun
21 with a Federal, State, or local law enforce-
22 ment agency; or

23 “(B) transfers or receives handgun ammu-
24 nition, unless the recipient—

1 “(i) is a licensed importer, licensed
2 manufacturer, or licensed dealer; or

3 “(ii) before the receipt, has presented
4 to the transferor—

5 “(I) a valid firearms purchaser
6 identification card issued by the State
7 to the recipient;

8 “(II) a valid copy of a handgun
9 purchase permit issued by the State
10 to the recipient; or

11 “(III) a valid permit to carry a
12 handgun issued by the State to the re-
13 cipient.

14 “(c) A certification under subsection (b) with respect
15 to a State shall have no force or effect on or after the
16 date the Attorney General finds, after an opportunity for
17 a hearing on the record, that the State does not have in
18 effect the system described in subsection (b).

19 “(d) The Attorney General shall prescribe such regu-
20 lations as may be necessary to carry out this section.”.

21 (b) PENALTIES.—Section 924(a) of such title is
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(8) Whoever knowingly violates section 932(a)(2)
24 shall be fined under this title, imprisoned, or both. The

1 court shall not suspend a sentence of imprisonment im-
 2 posed under this paragraph.”.

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

“932. Licensing and registration of handguns.”.

6 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 7 this section shall apply to conduct engaged in after the
 8 2-year period that begins with the date of the enactment
 9 of this Act.

10 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR STATE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRO-**
 11 **GRAMS TO LICENSE AND REGISTER HAND-**
 12 **GUNS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is author-
 14 ized to award grants to States, units of local government,
 15 and Indian tribes to comply with the requirements under
 16 subsection (a) of section 932 of title 18, United States
 17 Code, or to implement a system described in subsection
 18 (b) of that section.

19 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts ap-
 20 propriated to carry out this section, and not later than
 21 90 days after such amounts are appropriated, the Attor-
 22 ney General shall award grants, on a competitive basis,
 23 to eligible applicants whose applications are approved
 24 under subsection (c) to assist such applicants in carrying
 25 out the activities described in subsection (a).

1 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
2 under this Act, a State, unit of local government, or In-
3 dian tribe shall submit to the Attorney General an applica-
4 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such
5 information as the Attorney General may require, includ-
6 ing—

7 (1) whether the applicant will use the grant
8 to—

9 (A) comply with the requirements under
10 subsection (a) of section 932 of title 18, United
11 States Code; or

12 (B) implement a system described in sub-
13 section (b) of that section, including a descrip-
14 tion of the law that the applicant has enacted
15 to require a license for any purchase of a hand-
16 gun including a description of any other exemp-
17 tions to such law; and

18 (2) a description of the specific activities for
19 which the applicant will use the grant.

20 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A grantee under this Act shall
21 use such grant to carry out the activities described in sub-
22 section (a).

23 (e) AUDITS.—The Attorney General shall conduct an
24 audit every 2 years of each applicant receiving a grant

1 under this section, and may conduct such additional audits
2 as the Attorney General determines necessary.

3 (f) REPORT.—The Attorney General shall submit an
4 annual report to Congress on the grant program under
5 this section, which shall include information on the
6 progress made in establishing the Federal system de-
7 scribed in subsection (a) of section 932 of title 18, United
8 States Code, and the progress made by States in estab-
9 lishing a system described in subsection (b) of such sec-
10 tion.

11 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
13 essary to carry out this Act.

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