
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 768 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, ISAACSON AND DALEY, MARCH 8, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 8, 2019

AN ACT

1 Relating to firearm registration; providing for duties of the
2 Pennsylvania State Police; and imposing penalties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Firearm
7 Registration Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Antique firearm." Includes:

13 (1) A firearm, including a firearm with a matchlock,
14 flintlock, percussion cap or similar type of ignition system,
15 manufactured in or before 1898.

16 (2) A replica of a firearm described in paragraph (1) if
17 the replica:

18 (i) is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire

1 or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; or
2 (ii) uses rimfire or conventional centerfire
3 ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United
4 States and that is not readily available in the ordinary
5 channels of commercial trade.

6 (3) A firearm, other than a machine gun, which, although
7 designed as a weapon, the Pennsylvania State Police finds by
8 reason of the date of its manufacture, value, design and
9 other characteristics is primarily a collector's item and is
10 not likely to be used as a weapon.

11 "Firearm." A weapon which will or is designed or restored to
12 expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosive,
13 the frame or receiver of the device or a firearm muffler or
14 silencer. The term shall not include:

15 (1) An antique firearm.

16 (2) A device used exclusively for line throwing,
17 signaling or safety and required or recommended by the United
18 States Coast Guard or Interstate Commerce Commission.

19 (3) A device used exclusively for firing explosives,
20 rivets, stud cartridges or any similar industrial ammunition
21 incapable of use as a weapon.

22 Section 3. Registration.

23 (a) General rule.--All firearms in this Commonwealth shall
24 be registered in accordance with this section. It shall be the
25 duty of a person owning or possessing a firearm to cause the
26 firearm to be registered. No person within this Commonwealth may
27 possess, harbor, have under the person's control, transfer,
28 offer for sale, sell, give, deliver or accept a firearm unless
29 the person is the holder of a valid registration certificate for
30 the firearm. No person within this Commonwealth may possess,

1 harbor, have under the person's control, transfer, offer for
2 sale, sell, deliver or accept a firearm which is unregistrable
3 under this act.

4 (b) Nonapplicability.--This section shall not apply to:

5 (1) Firearms owned or under the direct control or
6 custody of a Federal, State or local governmental authority
7 maintained in the course of its official duties.

8 (2) Duty-related firearms owned and possessed by law
9 enforcement officers who are not residents of this
10 Commonwealth.

11 (3) Duty-related firearms owned and possessed by
12 corrections officers who are not residents of this
13 Commonwealth.

14 (4) Firearms owned, manufactured or processed by
15 licensed manufacturers of firearms, bulk transporters or
16 licensed sellers of firearms at wholesale or retail, provided
17 that such persons have all licenses required by law.

18 (5) A nonresident of this Commonwealth participating in
19 a lawful recreational firearm-related activity in this
20 Commonwealth, or on the way to or from the firearm-related
21 activity in another jurisdiction, provided that the
22 possession or control of the firearm is lawful in the
23 jurisdiction in which the individual resides and that the
24 weapon is either:

25 (i) Broken down in a nonfunctioning state.

26 (ii) Unloaded and enclosed in a case, firearm-
27 carrying box, shipping box or other container.

28 (6) Private security personnel who possess or control a
29 firearm or ammunition within this Commonwealth. Firearms
30 under this paragraph shall be owned and maintained by the

1 security firm employing the security personnel and shall be
2 registered by the security firm in accordance with this
3 section.

4 Section 4. Registration requirements.

5 (a) General rule.--No registration certificate shall be
6 issued to a person unless the person:

7 (1) Has not been convicted of a crime of violence.

8 (2) Has not been convicted within the five years prior
9 to the application of a violation of any law relating to the
10 use, possession or sale of a narcotic or dangerous drug.

11 (3) Is not otherwise ineligible to possess a firearm
12 under Federal or State law.

13 (b) Application.--A person who is required to register a
14 firearm under this act shall obtain an application for
15 registration of the firearm from the Pennsylvania State Police.
16 The application shall be in writing and sworn under oath and
17 shall require the following information:

18 (1) The name, home and business address, telephone
19 number, date of birth and Social Security number of the
20 applicant.

21 (2) The age, sex and citizenship of the applicant.

22 (3) The name of the manufacturer, the caliber or gauge,
23 model, type and serial number of each firearm to be
24 registered.

25 (4) Two photographs taken within 30 days immediately
26 prior to the date of filing the application equivalent to
27 passport size showing the full face, head and shoulders of
28 the applicant in a clear and distinguishing manner.

29 (5) Additional information as the Pennsylvania State
30 Police may deem necessary to process the application.

1 (c) Fingerprinting.--The applicant or registrant shall
2 submit to fingerprinting by the Pennsylvania State Police in
3 accordance with procedures and regulations prescribed by the
4 Pennsylvania State Police.

5 (d) Records.--The Pennsylvania State Police shall keep an
6 accurate record of each application received and acted upon
7 together with all other information and data pertaining to the
8 application on all applications for owner's registration
9 certificates issued or denied under this act. Applications for
10 owner's registration certificates shall be numbered in
11 consecutive numbers as filed, and each certificate issued shall
12 be identified with the duplicate number of the application upon
13 which it was issued and shall expire automatically one year from
14 the date of issuance.

15 (e) Background check.--The Pennsylvania State Police shall
16 conduct a criminal background check on the applicant to ensure
17 compliance with this section. No application may be approved
18 until and unless a criminal background check is completed.

19 (f) Procedure.--Within 30 days of receipt of an application,
20 the Pennsylvania State Police, after consideration of the
21 application for an owner's registration certificate and all
22 information obtained relative to the application, shall either
23 approve or deny the application and notify the applicant in
24 writing of the determination.

25 (g) Approval.--In the event the application is approved, the
26 Pennsylvania State Police shall issue to the applicant an
27 owner's registration certificate which shall contain the
28 applicant's name, residence, date of birth, photograph and other
29 personal information as may be required by the Pennsylvania
30 State Police. The owner's registration certificate shall not be

1 transferable, shall be carried simultaneously with the firearm
2 and shall be exhibited to a police officer upon demand for
3 inspection. Registration shall not make lawful the carrying or
4 possessing of a firearm if prohibited by law.

5 (h) Denial.--In the event the application is denied, the
6 Pennsylvania State Police shall inform the applicant in writing
7 of the denial. An applicant who believes that the applicant's
8 application is wrongfully denied may, within 10 days after
9 receiving notice of the denial, file a written appeal of the
10 denial in accordance with 2 Pa.C.S. (relating to administrative
11 law and procedure). Within three days after notification of a
12 decision unfavorable to the applicant and all time for appeal
13 having expired, the applicant shall surrender to the
14 Pennsylvania State Police the firearm for which the applicant
15 was denied registration.

16 (i) Renewal.--Each registrant must renew registration
17 annually. Applications for renewal shall be made by a registrant
18 60 days prior to the expiration of the current registration
19 certificate.

20 Section 5. Additional duties of registrant.

21 Each person holding a registration certificate shall:

22 (1) Notify the Pennsylvania State Police of:

23 (i) The loss, theft or destruction of the
24 registration certificate or of a registered firearm
25 within 48 hours of the discovery of the loss, theft or
26 destruction.

27 (ii) A change in any of the information appearing on
28 the registration certificate within 48 hours.

29 (iii) The sale, transfer or other disposition of the
30 firearm not less than 48 hours prior to delivery.

1 (2) Return to the Pennsylvania State Police the
2 registrant's copy of the registration certificate for a
3 firearm which is lost, stolen, destroyed or otherwise
4 disposed of within 48 hours.

5 (3) Keep a firearm in the registrant's possession
6 unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock, gun
7 safe or similar device unless the firearm is in the
8 registrant's immediate possession and control while at the
9 registrant's place of residence or business or while being
10 used for lawful recreational purposes within this
11 Commonwealth. This paragraph shall not apply to law
12 enforcement personnel or security personnel while in the
13 course of their employment.

14 Section 6. Application fee.

15 A nonrefundable fee of \$10 per firearm shall accompany each
16 application for registration of a firearm and renewal of
17 registration of a firearm.

18 Section 7. Penalty.

19 A person who violates this act commits a summary offense.

20 Section 8. Regulations.

21 The Pennsylvania State Police shall promulgate rules and
22 regulations for the implementation of this act.

23 Section 9. Acquisition or possession prohibited by law.

24 Nothing in this act shall make lawful the acquisition or
25 possession of firearms or firearm accessories which is otherwise
26 prohibited by law.

27 Section 10. Effective date.

28 This act shall take effect in 180 days.