
AN ACT to amend 175.35 (2f), 175.35 (2g) (b), 175.35 (2g) (c) (intro.), 175.35 (2i), 175.35 (2j), 175.35 (2k) (ar) 2., 175.35 (2k) (b) 2. a., 175.35 (2k) (g), 175.35 (2k) (h) and 175.35 (3); and to create 175.35 (2g) (c) 5. and 175.35 (2gm) of the statutes; relating to: requiring a firearms restrictions record search for transfers of handguns that do not involve a firearms dealer, requiring the exercise of rule-making authority, and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a firearms dealer must request that the Department of Justice (DOJ) perform a firearms restrictions record search on a handgun purchaser before the dealer may complete a sale of a handgun to the purchaser. If DOJ does not identify any firearms restrictions or if DOJ fails to complete the record search within 48 hours after receiving the request, subject to a limited extension, the firearms dealer may complete the sale. A person may be prohibited from possessing a firearm for several reasons, including that he or she is a felon or, in connection with a civil commitment or a domestic abuse injunction, has been ordered not to possess a firearm. A firearms dealer who intentionally violates the firearms restrictions record search requirements or a handgun purchaser who intentionally provides false information to a firearms dealer in connection with a record search is subject to a fine of not less than $500 and not more than $10,000 and may be imprisoned for up to nine months.
SENATE BILL 168

This bill requires a firearms restrictions record search for transfers of handguns that do not involve a firearms dealer. A person who is not a firearms dealer may not transfer a handgun to another person who is not a firearms dealer unless all of the following steps are completed: the person who is to receive the handgun submits a request to a firearms dealer for a record search; the firearms dealer requests that DOJ perform the record search; and the firearms dealer notifies the person who is transferring the handgun either that the record search did not reveal any firearms restrictions for the person who is to receive the handgun or that the time period for running a record search expired. The bill allows a firearms dealer to charge the person who is to receive the handgun the $13 fee charged by DOJ for record searches plus an additional $5. Any person who intentionally transfers a handgun in violation of the requirements in this bill or any transferee who intentionally provides false information in connection with a firearms restrictions record search is subject to a fine of not less than $500 and not more than $10,000 and may be imprisoned for up to nine months.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a report concerning the proposed penalty and the costs or savings that are likely to result if the bill is enacted.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 175.35 (2f) of the statutes is amended to read:

175.35 (2f) When a firearms dealer requests that the department of justice provide a firearms restrictions record search under sub. (2g) or (2gm), he or she shall provide truthful information about his or her status as a firearms dealer and shall provide an accurate firearms dealer identification number obtained under sub. (2h). A person may request that the department provide a firearms restrictions record search under sub. (2g) or (2gm) only if he or she is a firearms dealer.

SECTION 2. 175.35 (2g) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

175.35 (2g) (b) The department of justice shall promulgate rules prescribing a notification form for use under sub. subs. (2) and (2gm) requiring the transferee to provide his or her name, date of birth, gender, race and social security number and
other identification necessary to permit an accurate firearms restrictions record search under par. (c) 3. and the required notification under par. (c) 4. The department of justice shall make the forms available at locations throughout the state.

**SECTION 3.** 175.35 (2g) (c) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

175.35 (2g) (c) (intro.) The department of justice shall promulgate rules for firearms restrictions record searches regarding transferees under sub. subs. (2) and (2gm), including procedures for all of the following:

**SECTION 4.** 175.35 (2g) (c) 5. of the statutes is created to read:

175.35 (2g) (c) 5. A firearms dealer to notify a transferor under sub. (2gm) in writing of the results of a firearms restrictions record search regarding a transferee who requests a firearms restrictions record search under sub. (2gm) (a) 1.

**SECTION 5.** 175.35 (2gm) of the statutes is created to read:

175.35 (2gm) (a) A person other than a firearms dealer may not transfer a handgun to another person who is not a firearms dealer unless all of the following have occurred:

1. The transferee has done all of the following:
   a. Provided identification to a firearms dealer as required by rule under sub. (2g) (a).
   b. Completed a notification form described under sub. (2g) (b).
   c. Provided the firearms dealer the name, address, and telephone number of the transferor from whom the transferee intends to obtain a handgun.

2. The transferor receives written notification from a firearms dealer that the dealer requested the department of justice to conduct a firearms restrictions record search regarding the transferee and either the department issued a unique approval number for the transferee under sub. (2g) (c) 4. b. or the department did not complete
a firearms restrictions record search within the time period under sub. (2) (d) or (2g)
(c) 4. c.  
(b) If the transferee in a transaction to which par. (a) applies requests that a
firearms dealer request a firearms restrictions record search regarding the
transferee, the firearms dealer shall do all of the following:
1. Inspect identification provided by a transferee under par. (a) 1. a. as required
by rule under sub. (2g) (a).
2. Promptly after receiving a completed notification form under par. (a) 1. b.,
convey the information from the completed notification form to the department of
justice as required by rule under sub. (2g) (b) and request a firearms restrictions
records search.
3. Promptly notify the transferor identified under par. (a) 1. c. in writing as
provided by rule under sub. (2g) (c) 5. of an approval or denial issued by the
department of justice under sub. (2g) (c) 4. or of the expiration of an applicable
deadline for completing a firearms restrictions record search under sub. (2) (d) or (2g)
(c) 4. c.  
(c) The department of justice shall conduct a firearms restrictions record search
requested by a firearms dealer under par. (b) 2. and notify the dealer of the results
of the search as provided by rule under sub. (2g) (c) 4.
(d) A firearms dealer may charge a transferee the fee under sub. (2i) plus $5
for requesting the department of justice to conduct a firearms restrictions record
search of the transferee under this subsection.

SECTION 6. 175.35 (2i) of the statutes is amended to read:
175.35 (2i) The department shall charge a firearms dealer a $13 fee for each
firearms restrictions record search that the firearms dealer requests under sub. (2)
(c) or (2gm) (b) 2. The firearms dealer may collect the fee from the transferee. The department may refuse to conduct firearms restrictions record searches for any firearms dealer who fails to pay any fee under this subsection within 30 days after billing by the department.

SECTION 7. 175.35 (2j) of the statutes is amended to read:

175.35 (2j) A firearms dealer shall maintain the original record of all completed notification forms and a record of all confirmation numbers and corresponding approval or nonapproval numbers that he or she receives regarding firearms restrictions record searches under sub. (2g) or (2gm). The firearms dealer shall mail the duplicate copy of each completed notification form to the department of justice.

SECTION 8. 175.35 (2k) (ar) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

175.35 (2k) (ar) 2. Check each duplicate notification form received under sub. (2j) against the information recorded by the department regarding the corresponding request for a firearms restrictions record search under sub. (2g) or (2gm). If the department previously provided a unique approval number regarding the request and nothing in the duplicate completed notification form indicates that the transferee is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 941.29, the department shall destroy all records regarding that firearms restrictions record search within 30 days after receiving the duplicate form.

SECTION 9. 175.35 (2k) (b) 2. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

175.35 (2k) (b) 2. a. Except as provided in subd. 2. b., a log of dates of requests for firearms restrictions record searches under sub. (2g) or (2gm) together with confirmation numbers, unique approval and nonapproval numbers and firearms dealer identification numbers corresponding to those dates.

SECTION 10. 175.35 (2k) (g) of the statutes is amended to read:
175.35 (2k) (g) If a search conducted under sub. (2g) or (2gm) indicates that the transferee is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 941.29, the attorney general or his or her designee may disclose to a law enforcement agency that the transferee has attempted to obtain a handgun.

**SECTION 11.** 175.35 (2k) (h) of the statutes is amended to read:

175.35 (2k) (h) If a search conducted under sub. (2g) or (2gm) indicates a felony charge without a recorded disposition and the attorney general or his or her designee has reasonable grounds to believe the transferee may pose a danger to himself, herself or another, the attorney general or his or her designee may disclose to a law enforcement agency that the transferee has obtained or has attempted to obtain a handgun.

**SECTION 12.** 175.35 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

175.35 (3) Any person who intentionally violates sub. (2), (2e), (2f), (2gm) (a), or (2j) shall be fined not less than $500 nor more than $10,000 and may be imprisoned for not more than 9 months.

**SECTION 13. Effective date.**

(1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 13th month beginning after publication.