
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6839

AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY STATE PERMITS TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER ISSUED BY TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

SUMMARY

Under PA 22-102, the police chiefs of the state's federally recognized Native American tribes with a law enforcement unit (i.e., the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot police chiefs) may issue temporary state handgun permits under the statutory permit approval process to applicants who are bona fide permanent residents of the tribal reservations. This bill makes numerous conforming changes throughout the firearm permitting statutes to extend the statutory permit approval process to these police chiefs, including provisions on the following:

1. supplying permit application forms;
2. notifying applicants of their permit's approval or denial within specified timeframes;
3. requiring applicants submit to fingerprinting, positive identification procedures, and state and national criminal history records checks; and
4. denying permits if they have reason to believe that (a) the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony or (b) any other condition exists for which issuing a handgun permit is prohibited under state or federal law.

(However, the bill does not make similar conforming changes to certain other provisions, including those on handgun permit fees.)

PA 22-102 also authorizes the chief executive officer (CEO) of any municipality (i.e., town, city, consolidated town and city, borough, or

consolidated town and borough) without a police chief to perform various firearms permitting and administrative functions or designate the resident state trooper or relevant state police officer to do so. (Under prior law, only a town's first selectman or borough's warden were authorized to perform these functions.) The bill defines a municipal CEO for these purposes as the (1) first selectman; (2) chief administrative officer appointed by the board of selectmen or mayor; (3) mayor; (4) borough warden; or (5) appointed town, city, or borough manager (CGS § 7-193).

The bill also repeals a provision under current law allowing the handgun permit issuing authority to forgo taking an applicant's fingerprints if (1) they determine that the applicant's fingerprints were already taken and (2) the applicant presents identification that they determine is valid.

Lastly, the bill makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

SB 967, favorably reported by the Public Safety and Security Committee, repeals the same provision allowing permit issuing authority to forgo taking an applicant's fingerprints under certain circumstances.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/16/2023)