
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6839 (as amended by House "A")*

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 and notifying applicants about their permit's approval or denial within specified timeframes;
2. requiring applicants to submit to fingerprinting, positive identification procedures, and state and national criminal history records checks;
3. 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 state or federal law prohibits issuing a handgun permit;
4. retaining a portion of the handgun permit fee and forwarding sufficient funds to pay for the national criminal history check to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner;

5. receiving notifications from the DESPP commissioner (a) about reasons that would prohibit applicants from possessing a handgun or (b) that an applicant is ineligible for a long gun; and
6. receiving copies of receipts for handgun and long gun sales and transfers.

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.

*House Amendment "A" adds conforming changes to statutes on (1) retaining a portion of the handgun permit fee and forwarding sufficient funds for a background check to DESPP, (2) receiving notifications from the DESPP commissioner about applicants being ineligible to possess a handgun or long gun, and (3) receiving copies of receipts for handgun and long gun sales and transfers.

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)