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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 967**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN PROCEDURES FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS OF PISTOL PERMIT APPLICANTS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

By law, a nonresident with a valid out-of-state gun permit may apply directly to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner for a Connecticut handgun permit. This bill explicitly requires the commissioner to require these nonresident handgun permit applicants to submit to state and national criminal history checks conducted under state law. By law, the DESPP commissioner must follow the same fingerprinting and criminal history check procedures that state law requires for local officials processing temporary state handgun permit applications.

The bill also eliminates specified provisions for these fingerprinting and criminal history check procedures but continues to require both the DESPP commissioner and local officials to forward an applicant's fingerprints to the State Police Bureau of Identification (SPBI), which must conduct the criminal history checks as state law requires. Specifically, the bill eliminates provisions authorizing them to:

1. use positive identification methods other than fingerprinting for these criminal history checks and
2. opt not to take an applicant's fingerprints if they determine that the applicant's fingerprints were previously taken and the applicant presents valid identification.

The bill also eliminates requirements that they:

1. take an applicant's fingerprints for criminal history checks, requiring instead that they forward the fingerprints to SPBI for these purposes; and

2. record the date fingerprints were taken in the applicant's file and, within five days, forward them or other positive identifying information to SPBI.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Related Bill***

sHB 6839, favorably reported by the Public Safety and Security Committee, repeals the same provision authorizing the permit issuing authority to opt not to take an applicant's fingerprints under certain circumstances.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25    Nay 0    (03/16/2023)