

BILLS PROPOSED TO STRIKE UNNECESSARY PA INSTANT CHECK SYSTEM

Two important bills, House Bill 763 and Senate Bill 224, were recently introduced in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, according to a report on www.nraila.org. Sponsored by state Representative Jason Ortity (R-46) and state Senator Camera Bartolotta (R-46), these bills would eliminate the current Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) as well as the current handgun record of sale, and replace them with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which is administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Under the NICS system, licensed dealers contact the FBI, via a toll-free telephone number, to run a check of computerized criminal history and mental health records at the point of sale for firearm purchases. Upon confirmation that the purchaser has no prohibiting criminal or mental health record, the purchaser may take possession of the firearm.

Since its inception in 1998, PICS has cost Pennsylvania tax payers nearly \$120 million to basically conduct duplicate background checks on gun purchasers in the Keystone State. By replacing the system with NICS, taxpayers in PA would be relieved of a burdensome, duplicative process and would be able to take advantage of the more efficient federal system. Currently, 30 states, including the District of Columbia, solely use the NICS system for all firearm background checks.

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20170309/pennsylvania-important-nics-background-check-system-legislation-introduced>



MOLON LABE

PENNSYLVANIA PATRIOTS TRY TO REVIVE “NRA” PREEMPTION BILL

Republican lawmakers in Harrisburg are pushing a bill that would enable the NRA and similar groups to sue municipalities to challenge local gun regulations, according to a report on www.newsworks.org.

The effort is the latest effort to revive a controversial 2014 law known as Act 192, which the Pennsylvania Supreme Court invalidated last year. Supporters of the renewed push say the goal is to create consistent gun regulation statewide.

Act 192 gave groups like the NRA the right to sue over gun ordinances stricter than state law and put local governments on the hook for legal fees. It initially spurred more than 20

towns to weaken or drop firearm laws to avoid being the target of litigation.

But in 2015, the Commonwealth Court overturned Act 192 on procedural grounds, since it was tucked into an unrelated bill at the last minute that stiffened penalties for stealing scrap metal. The following year, the state's high court affirmed the ruling.

Currently, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Pittsburgh and some other municipalities still have gun-control measures on the books that exceed state rules, including laws banning guns in public parks and regulations about reporting lost or stolen firearms.

"Where so many different ordinances are allowed to exist, citizens with no criminal intent are placed in danger of breaking restrictions where they don't know they exist," according to Rep. Mark Keller, notes the Newsworks article. His district includes parts of Cumberland and Perry counties.

The NRA sued Philadelphia to strike seven of its gun-control ordinances, but after the courts voided Act 192, the NRA lost the legal fight.

The NRA's Legislative Action arm celebrated the introduction of Keller's bill, which has a companion bill sponsored by state Sen. Wayne Langerholc of Bedford County.

The bill would remedy the "complex patchwork of regulations across the state, which make it difficult for responsible firearm owners to ensure they are following the law," NRA officials wrote, according to the article.

If the bill passes and survives an expected veto from the governor, a court brawl is anticipated.

Last legislative session, the Pennsylvania Senate voted on a similar bill, but it never gained traction in the House. If this version passes, it would be one of the strongest laws in the country for gun-rights groups hoping to dismantle onerous regulations.

http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/102033-pa-lawmakers-try-to-revive-nra-backed-measure-aimed-at-weakening-local-gun-laws-_topstory

U.S. HOUSE, SENATE INTRODUCE NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY BILLS

U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) on Wednesday introduced his version of interstate carry legislation, titled the "Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017," according to a report on nra.org. Cornyn's bill follows an earlier release in the House by Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) of the "Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017."

Both bills seek to help law-abiding concealed carry permit holders from having to negotiate a confusing maze of laws, reciprocity agreements, and recognition statutes when they travel out of state. Currently, every state has its own legal mechanism for the concealed carry of handguns for self-defense. And while reciprocity or recognition of non-resident permits is the norm between many states, a handful of left-wing liberal ones that receive travelers from all over the country do not recognize permits from other states. As a result, otherwise law-abiding people can get caught in a legal crossfire, having their valuable firearms seized, and even facing felony prosecution and mandatory prison time.

Like Shaneen Allen, a single mother of two who obtained her Pennsylvania concealed carry permit after being robbed twice within a year. Or like Raymond Hughes, a corrections officer from Pennsylvania who was traveling in New Jersey when a drunk driver collided with his vehicle and sent him to the hospital.

The nraila.org article notes that their only “crimes” were failing to realize that their permits would not protect them in certain states. Yet all of them were initially subject to felony prosecution and dragged through the courts at great financial and emotional expense. Some of them even ended up with criminal records that will follow them for the rest of their lives.

As with Hudson’s bill, Cornyn’s legislation would ensure that individuals with a valid concealed carry permit or who are otherwise legally eligible to carry in their states of residence could travel interstate while carrying a concealed handgun for self-defense or other lawful purposes. Rules of behavior for carrying firearms in each state would continue to apply.

This common-sense legislation is opposed by radical gun control advocates who wrongly insist that it will allow “dangerous” people to carry guns interstate and will undermine the laws of states that severely restrict concealed carry.

Needless to say, no state has an interest in licensing dangerous people to carry firearms, and all have procedures to screen out ineligible applicants. The evidence shows, moreover, that concealed carry permit holders are some of the most law-abiding citizens in the United States. And dangerous criminals have been unlawfully carrying guns wherever they go throughout the

nation’s history. All this legislation would do is put law-abiding people on equal footing with armed criminals while traveling from state to state.

It’s easy to see what the real source of opposition is. The same states that severely restrict carry by their own residents also refuse to recognize non-resident permits. These include California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island.

A robust interstate carry regime would show the residents of those states what the rest of the country has known for decades: that law-abiding people carrying concealed handguns do not cause the mayhem that gun control advocates pretend follow firearms wherever they go. In fact, life goes on as usual, just with more freedom and protection for the lawfully armed and more reason for the bad guys to think twice.

The NRA commends Sen. Cornyn for his leadership in this crucial effort and looks forward to the day when the Second Amendment right to bear arms applies to all Americans in every state of the nation.

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20170303/cornyn-introduces-the-constitutional-concealed-carry-reciprocity-act-of-2017-in-the-senate>

CENTRAL PA. CONCEALED CARRY SEMINARS TO BE HELD IN MARCH

State Rep. Sue Helm (R-104) is hosting three concealed carry seminars in her district in the coming weeks, including one in Ono, according to a Lebanon Daily News story.

The seminars are free and will be conducted by Lancaster County attorney Josh Bodene, an expert on Pennsylvania's gun laws.

"These seminars allow gun owners to learn exactly what their rights are under Pennsylvania law and ask any questions they may have about them," Helm says in a news release, according to the posting on ldnews.com. "I am pleased to once again be able host to these events, which are always well attended."

The dates, times and locations of the seminars are as follows:

- March 16, 6-8 p.m.; Halifax Area Ambulance and Rescue Association Building, 31 Bunker Hill Road, Halifax
- April 6, 6-8 p.m.; Pennsylvania Game Commission Headquarters, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg
- April 27, 6-8 p.m.; Ono Fire Company, 10805 Jonestown Road, Ono

Seating is limited. Participants are asked to make a reservation by calling one of Helm's offices at (717) 787-1230 (Capitol), (717) 651-0100 (Susquehanna Township) or (717) 692-0833 (Millersburg). They can also register online at www.SueHelm.net.

<http://www.ldnews.com/story/news/local/2017/02/27/rep-sue-helm-hold-concealed-carry-seminars/98474678/>

MEMORIZE THESE SAFETY RULES

1. Always treat all guns as though they are loaded
2. Always keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction

3. Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere and everywhere restrains evil interference - they deserve a place of honor with all that's good" -- George Washington

"Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. Tolerance in the face of tyranny is no virtue." -- Barry Goldwater

"No kingdom can be secured otherwise than by arming the people. The possession of arms is the distinction between a freeman and a slave." -- James Burgh

If you'd like to contribute to this newsletter, please send your brief article to tom.campione@2a-lvtp.org

US Constitution 2nd Amendment

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

PA Constitution Article 1 Section 21

"The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned."
