

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1112

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Enhanced Background  
3 Checks Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING OF BACKGROUND CHECK PROCE-**  
5 **DURES TO BE FOLLOWED BEFORE A FED-**  
6 **ERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE MAY TRANSFER A**  
7 **FIREARM TO A PERSON WHO IS NOT SUCH A**  
8 **LICENSEE.**

9       Section 922(t)(1)(B)(ii) of title 18, United States  
10 Code is amended—

11           (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking clause (ii)  
12 and inserting the following:

13           “(ii) in the event the system has not notified  
14 the licensee that the receipt of a firearm by such  
15 other person would violate subsection (g) or (n) of  
16 this section—

17           “(I) not fewer than 10 business days  
18 (meaning a day on which State offices are  
19 open) has elapsed since the licensee contacted  
20 the system, and the system has not notified the  
21 licensee that the receipt of a firearm by such  
22 other person would violate subsection (g) or (n)  
23 of this section, and the other person has sub-  
24 mitted, electronically through a website estab-  
25 lished by the Attorney General or by first-class  
26 mail, a petition for review which—

1 “(aa) certifies that such other person  
2 has no reason to believe that such other  
3 person is prohibited by Federal, State, or  
4 local law from purchasing or possessing a  
5 firearm; and

6 “(bb) requests that the system re-  
7 spond to the contact referred to in sub-  
8 paragraph (A) within 10 business days  
9 after the date the petition was submitted  
10 (or, if the petition is submitted by first-  
11 class mail, the date the letter containing  
12 the petition is postmarked); and

13 “(II) 10 business days have elapsed since  
14 the other person so submitted the petition, and  
15 the system has not notified the licensee that the  
16 receipt of a firearm by such other person would  
17 violate subsection (g) or (n) of this section;  
18 and”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(7) The Attorney General shall—

21 “(A) prescribe the form on which a peti-  
22 tion shall be submitted pursuant to paragraph  
23 (1)(B)(ii);

1           “(B) make the form available electroni-  
2 cally, and provide a copy of the form to all li-  
3 censees referred to in paragraph (1);

4           “(C) provide the petitioner and the licensee  
5 involved written notice of receipt of the petition,  
6 either electronically or by first-class mail; and

7           “(D) respond on an expedited basis to any  
8 such petition received by the Attorney General.

9       “(8)(A) If, after 3 business days have elapsed since  
10 the licensee initially contacted the system about a firearm  
11 transaction, the system notifies the licensee that the re-  
12 ceipt of a firearm by such other person would not violate  
13 subsection (g) or (n), the licensee may continue to rely  
14 on that notification for the longer of—

15           “(i) an additional 25 calendar days after the li-  
16 censee receives the notification; or

17           “(ii) 30 calendar days after the date of the ini-  
18 tial contact.

19       “(B) If such other person has met the requirements  
20 of paragraph (1)(B)(ii) before the system destroys the  
21 records related to the firearm transaction, the licensee  
22 may continue to rely on such other person having met the  
23 requirements for an additional 25 calendar days after the  
24 date such other person first met the requirements.”.

1 **SEC. 3. GAO REPORTS.**

2       Within 90 days after the end of each of the 1-year,  
3 3-year, and 5-year periods that begin with the effective  
4 date of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United  
5 States shall prepare and submit to the Committee on the  
6 Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
7 mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate a written report ana-  
8 lyzing the extent to which, during the respective period,  
9 paragraphs (1)(B)(ii) and (7) of section 922(t) of title 18,  
10 United States Code, have prevented firearms from being  
11 transferred to prohibited persons, which report shall in-  
12 clude but not be limited to the following—

13           (1) an assessment of the overall implementation  
14 of such subsections, including a description of the  
15 challenges faced in implementing such paragraphs;  
16 and

17           (2) an aggregate description of firearm pur-  
18 chase delays and denials, and an aggregate analysis  
19 of the petitions submitted pursuant to such para-  
20 graph (1)(B)(ii).

21 **SEC. 4. REPORTS ON PETITIONS SUPPORTING FIREARM**  
22 **TRANSFERS NOT IMMEDIATELY APPROVED**  
23 **BY NICS SYSTEM, THAT WERE NOT RE-**  
24 **SPONDED TO IN A TIMELY MANNER.**

25       The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
26 shall make an annual report to the public on the number

1 of petitions received by the national instant criminal back-  
2 ground check system established under section 103 of the  
3 Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act that were sub-  
4 mitted pursuant to subclause (I) of section  
5 922(t)(1)(B)(ii) of title 18, United States Code, with re-  
6 spect to which a determination was not made within the  
7 10-day period referred to in subclause (II) of such section.

8 **SEC. 5. NEW TERMINOLOGY FOR THOSE WITH MENTAL ILL-**  
9 **NESS.**

10 Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is  
11 amended in each of subsections (d)(4) and (g)(4) by strik-  
12 ing “adjudicated as a mental defective” and inserting “ad-  
13 judicated with mental illness, severe developmental dis-  
14 ability, or severe emotional instability”.

15 **SEC. 6. REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.**

16 Within 150 days after the date of the enactment of  
17 this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the  
18 National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Fire-  
19 arms, shall submit to the Congress a report analyzing the  
20 effect, if any, of this Act on the safety of victims of domes-  
21 tic violence, domestic abuse, dating partner violence, sex-  
22 ual assault, and stalking, and whether any further amend-  
23 ments to the background check process, including amend-  
24 ments to the conditions that must be met under this Act  
25 for a firearm to be transferred when the system has not

1 notified the licensee that such transfer would not violate  
2 subsection (g) or (n) of section 922 of title 18, United  
3 States Code, would likely result in a reduction in the risk  
4 of death or great bodily harm to victims of domestic vio-  
5 lence, domestic abuse, dating partner violence, sexual as-  
6 sault, and stalking.

7 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8       This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall  
9 take effect 210 days after the date of the enactment of  
10 this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives February 28,  
2019.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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