
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 924 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY DAVANZO, BERNSTINE, BROOKS, DUNBAR, ECKER, JONES,
PENNYCUICK, ROTHMAN, RYAN AND STAMBAUGH, MARCH 15, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 15, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous
3 articles, further providing for licenses.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 6109 (c), (d), (e)(1)(i) and (k) of Title
7 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended and the
8 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

9 § 6109. Licenses.

10 * * *

11 (c) Form of application and content.--The application for a
12 license to carry a firearm shall be uniform throughout this
13 Commonwealth and shall be on a form prescribed by the
14 Pennsylvania State Police. The form may contain provisions, not
15 exceeding one page, to assure compliance with this section but
16 may not require or use references. Issuing authorities shall use
17 only the application form prescribed by the Pennsylvania State
18 Police. One of the following reasons for obtaining a firearm

1 license shall be set forth in the application: self-defense,
2 employment, hunting and fishing, target shooting, gun collecting
3 or another proper reason. The application form shall be dated
4 and signed by the applicant and shall contain the following
5 statement:

6 I have never been convicted of a crime that prohibits me
7 from possessing or acquiring a firearm under Federal or
8 State law. I am of sound mind and have never been
9 committed to a mental institution. I hereby certify that
10 the statements contained herein are true and correct to
11 the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that,
12 if I knowingly make any false statements herein, I am
13 subject to penalties prescribed by law. I authorize the
14 sheriff, or his designee, or, in the case of first class
15 cities, the chief or head of the police department, or
16 his designee, to inspect only those records or documents
17 relevant to information required for this application. If
18 I am issued a license and knowingly become ineligible to
19 legally possess or acquire firearms, I will promptly
20 notify the sheriff of the county in which I reside or, if
21 I reside in a city of the first class, the chief of
22 police of that city.

23 (d) Sheriff to conduct investigation.--The sheriff to whom
24 the application is made shall:

25 (1) investigate the applicant's record of criminal
26 conviction;

27 (2) investigate whether or not the applicant is under
28 indictment for or has ever been convicted of a crime
29 punishable by imprisonment exceeding one year;

30 [(3) investigate whether the applicant's character and

1 reputation are such that the applicant will not be likely to
2 act in a manner dangerous to public safety;]

3 (4) investigate whether the applicant would be precluded
4 from receiving a license under subsection (e) (1) or section
5 6105(h) (relating to persons not to possess, use,
6 manufacture, control, sell or transfer firearms); [and]

7 (5) conduct a criminal background, juvenile delinquency
8 and mental health check following the procedures set forth in
9 section 6111 (relating to sale or transfer of firearms),
10 receive a unique approval number for that inquiry and record
11 the date and number on the application[.]; and

12 (6) not keep or retain information relevant to the
13 investigation beyond the initial application and proof of
14 approval for more than 10 days beyond successful issuance or
15 denial of license.

16 (e) Issuance of license.--

17 (1) A license to carry a firearm shall be for the
18 purpose of carrying a firearm concealed on or about one's
19 person or in a vehicle and shall be issued if, after an
20 investigation not to exceed 45 days, it appears that the
21 applicant is an individual concerning whom no good cause
22 exists to deny the license. A license shall not be issued to
23 any of the following:

24 [(i) An individual whose character and reputation is
25 such that the individual would be likely to act in a
26 manner dangerous to public safety.]

27 * * *

28 (k) Reciprocity.--

29 (1) The Attorney General shall have the power and duty
30 to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states

1 providing for the mutual recognition of a license to carry a
2 firearm issued by the Commonwealth and a license or permit to
3 carry a firearm issued by the other state. To carry out this
4 duty, the Attorney General is authorized to negotiate
5 reciprocity agreements and grant recognition of a license or
6 permit to carry a firearm issued by another state.

7 (1.1) The Attorney General shall seek to establish
8 reciprocity agreements with every state and may not
9 unilaterally withdraw from any reciprocity agreement.

10 (2) The Attorney General shall report to the General
11 Assembly within 180 days of the effective date of this
12 paragraph and annually thereafter concerning the agreements
13 which have been consummated under this subsection.

14 (3) The report concerning reciprocity agreement progress
15 between states shall detail the efforts the Attorney General
16 has made to establish reciprocity agreements with other
17 states, and for each state the Commonwealth does not have a
18 reciprocity agreement with, explain the reason why an
19 agreement could not be reached.

20 * * *

21 (m.4) Violations by issuing authority.--An applicant denied
22 these rights shall be entitled to attorney fees and costs in any
23 action against the issuing authority to enforce this section.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.