

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1179

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 22, 2022

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1179, with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, this bill requires firearm owners who move to New Jersey to obtain a firearm purchaser identification card (FPIC) and register their handguns within 60 days of residing in this State.

Under current law, a person who purchases a firearm in this State is required to display an FPIC, which identifies the card holder as a person who meets the statutory qualifications to purchase a firearm in this State. A person who legally owned a firearm while residing in another state and then moves to New Jersey is not required to obtain an FPIC. The person also is not required to register the firearm, but may do so voluntarily.

This bill, as amended, requires a firearm owner who becomes a resident of this State to apply for an FPIC within 60 days and if the firearm is a handgun, to register that handgun within 60 days. To register the handgun, the owner is required to submit to the municipal law enforcement agency or the State Police a registration statement that provides the person's name and address and the make, model, and serial number of the handgun being registered.

Under the bill as amended, the Superintendent of State Police is required to prepare the form of registration statement and provide a suitable supply of statements to each organized full-time municipal police department and each State Police station within 60 days prior to the bill's enactment.

The amended bill provides that a person who fails to apply for a firearm purchaser identification card or register a handgun as required by the amended bill is liable to a civil penalty of \$250 for a first offense and is guilty of a disorderly persons offense for a second or subsequent offense. Under the amended bill, if a person is in possession of multiple firearms or handguns in violation of the bill's provisions, the person is guilty of one offense provided the violation is a single event.

The amended bill provides that the civil penalty is to be collected pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999" in a summary

proceeding before the municipal court having jurisdiction. Under the amended bill, a law enforcement officer having enforcement authority in that municipality may issue a summons for a violation and may serve and execute all process with respect to enforcement consistent with the Rules of Court.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to provide:

1. that the registration requirement would only apply to handguns, and not to all firearms.

2. that a person who fails to apply for an FPIC or register a handgun would be liable to a civil penalty of \$250 for a first offense and be guilty of a disorderly persons offense for a second or subsequent offense.

3. that if a person is in possession of multiple firearms or handguns in violation of the bill, the person would be guilty of one offense provided the violation is a single event.

4. that the civil penalty is to be collected pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999" in a summary proceeding before the municipal court.

5. that a law enforcement officer may issue a summons for a violation, and may serve and execute all process with respect to the enforcement consistent with the Rules of Court.