

# SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 816

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 28, 2016

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 816.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 816 requires retailers to sell personalized handguns, also known as “smart guns,” in the same manner as other handguns. A personalized handgun is designed so that it may only be fired by an authorized or recognized user.

Under current law, three years after personalized handguns are available for retail purposes, it will be illegal for a firearms manufacturer or dealer to sell or transfer a handgun unless that handgun is a personalized handgun. Personalized handguns are deemed available for retail purposes within 30 months of the date when at least one manufacturer has commercially delivered at least one personalized handgun production model to a wholesale or retail dealer in New Jersey or any other state. This law was intended to encourage the development of smart gun technology, but the prohibition on other handguns has, in effect, restricted consumer access to personalized handguns.

This bill repeals sections of law prohibiting the sale of all handguns after personalized handguns are available for retail purposes. However, the bill preserves the provision requiring the Attorney General to report to the Governor and Legislature on the availability of personalized handguns and directing the Superintendent of State Police to establish and update a list of personalized handguns that may be sold. Upon issuance of the list, the bill requires each firearms wholesale or retail dealer to maintain an inventory of one or more types of personalized handguns to be displayed in the dealer’s salesroom and offered for sale to the general public.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2016-2017 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.