

SENATE, No. 549

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires successful completion of firearms education program to obtain initial firearms purchaser identification card and permit to purchase a handgun.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning firearms education and supplementing Title 2C
2 of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. a. An applicant for a firearms purchaser identification card
8 or permit to purchase a handgun shall not be issued the card or
9 permit unless the applicant presents evidence of successfully
10 completing a firearms education program of a type approved by the
11 Superintendent of State Police or has received substantially
12 equivalent training through law enforcement or military service.
13 Acceptable evidence of successfully completing a firearms
14 education program shall include, but not be limited to, a certificate
15 indicating satisfactory completion of a National Rifle Association
16 firearms course, a certificate that the applicant is a certified
17 National Rifle Association Firearms Instructor, a copy of a firearms
18 or hunting license or permit from any other jurisdiction that requires
19 the holder to successfully complete a substantially equivalent
20 firearms education program, or any other documentation,
21 certificate, or certification that the superintendent deems
22 substantially equivalent.

23 The firearms education program, which shall not exceed four
24 hours, may be offered by the National Rifle Association, a State or
25 local law enforcement agency, junior college, college, university,
26 firearms training school, or any other entity approved by the
27 superintendent.

28 The superintendent shall prescribe the basic curriculum for the
29 firearms education program required under this section.

30 In developing that curriculum, the superintendent shall consult
31 with a firearms safety panel which shall consist of four members in
32 addition to the superintendent. Two members shall be appointed by
33 the Senate President; one shall represent organizations,
34 associations, or clubs promoting hunting or shooting sports or
35 competitions and one shall represent organizations, associations, or
36 other entities advocating gun violence prevention. Two members
37 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; one
38 shall represent organizations, associations, or clubs promoting
39 hunting or shooting sports or competitions and one shall represent
40 organizations, associations, or other entities advocating gun
41 violence prevention. The superintendent shall serve as chair of the
42 panel. The panel shall meet at those times and in those places as
43 determined by the chair.

44 The basic curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, classes
45 relating to responsible firearms ownership, safe storage, restricting
46 access to firearms by unsupervised minors, and any other matters
47 relating to protecting the safety and well being of New Jersey's
48 families and children.

1 The basic curriculum shall be adopted within 60 days of the
2 appointment of the members of the panel. If the panel is not
3 appointed or does not adopt the basic curriculum within the
4 required 60 days, the superintendent shall act independently in
5 prescribing the provisions of the curriculum.

6 b. The superintendent shall prescribe the form or certificate an
7 applicant receives evidencing the successful completion of the
8 firearms education program required under this section and the
9 manner in which that form or certificate shall be presented in order
10 to qualify for a firearms purchaser identification card or permit to
11 purchase a handgun.

12 c. The form or certificate issued pursuant to this section shall
13 be valid, and shall be used, for an application for an initial firearms
14 purchaser identification card or initial permit to purchase a
15 handgun. An applicant who has successfully completed a firearms
16 education program pursuant to this section shall not be required to
17 repeat that program as part of any application for any renewal of a
18 firearms purchaser identification card or permit to purchase a
19 handgun.

20
21 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
22 month next following enactment except the Superintendent of State
23 Police may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance
24 thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

25 26 27 STATEMENT

28
29 This bill requires an applicant for an initial firearms purchaser
30 identification card or permit to purchase a handgun to successfully
31 complete a firearms education program approved by the
32 Superintendent of State Police.

33 Under the bill, acceptable evidence of successfully completing a
34 firearms education program includes: a certificate indicating
35 satisfactory completion of a National Rifle Association firearms
36 course; a certificate that the applicant is a certified National Rifle
37 Association Firearms Instructor; a copy of a firearms or hunting
38 license or permit from any other jurisdiction that requires the holder
39 to successfully complete a substantially equivalent firearms
40 education program; or any other documentation, certificate, or
41 certification deemed substantially equivalent by the superintendent.

42 The bill authorizes substantially equivalent training through law
43 enforcement or military service to be substituted for the education
44 program.

45 The bill limits the firearms education program to no more than
46 four hours. It may be offered by the National Rifle Association, a
47 State or local law enforcement agency, junior college, college,

1 university, firearms training school, or any other entity approved by
2 the superintendent.

3 The bill requires the superintendent to prescribe the basic
4 curriculum for the firearms education program, in consultation with
5 a firearms safety panel. The panel is to consist of four members.
6 Two members are to represent organizations, associations, or clubs
7 promoting hunting or shooting sports or competitions, one each to
8 be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
9 General Assembly. The two other members are to represent
10 organizations, associations, or other entities advocating gun
11 violence prevention, one each to be appointed by the President and
12 the Speaker. The superintendent is designated as chair of the panel
13 and is responsible for determining when and where the panel will
14 meet.

15 The bill requires the basic curriculum of the firearms education
16 program to include classes relating to responsible firearms
17 ownership, safe storage, restricting access to firearms by
18 unsupervised minors, and any other matters concerning the safety
19 and well being of this State's families and children. The basic
20 curriculum is to be adopted within 60 days of the appointment of
21 the members of the panel. If the panel is not appointed or does not
22 adopt the curriculum within the required 60 days, the bill directs the
23 superintendent to independently prescribe the curriculum.

24 The superintendent is responsible for developing the form or
25 certificate evidencing successful completion of the firearms
26 education program. The form or certificate is required for an initial
27 application for a firearms purchaser identification card or initial
28 permit to purchase a handgun, but not for a renewal of a card or
29 permit.