

H.F. 8
As introduced

Subject Firearm Background Checks

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Overview

This bill requires that most private firearm transfers be preceded by a firearms eligibility background check of the person receiving the firearm. The bill extends the requirement to complete a state background check to transfers of long guns and raises the age to receive a firearm in a private transfer from 18 to 21. The bill reduces the time a transferee permit is valid and limits transferee permits to use in a single firearm transfer.

Summary

Section Description

1 Transferee permit; penalty.

Subd. 1. Information. Establishes that a person must be 21 years old to apply for a transferee permit (aka, permit to purchase).

Subd. 2. Investigation. No changes.

Subd. 3. Forms. No changes.

Subd. 4. Grounds for disqualification. Clarifies the grounds for a chief law enforcement officer to deny an application for a transferee permit.

Subd. 5. Granting of permits. Clarifying, non-substantive changes.

Subd. 6. Permits valid state wide. Reduces the time period that a transferee permit is valid and that the permit is only valid to receive a single firearm. The permit will expire after 30 days or immediately after it is used to receive a firearm. (Current law permits a transferee permit holder to use the permit for as many firearms transfers as the holder wishes in a one year period.)

Subd. 7. Permit voided. Contains a clarifying change.

Subd. 8. Hearing upon denial. No change.

Subd. 9. Permit to carry. Eliminates the provision that treats a permit to carry as the equivalent of a transferee permit.

Section Description

- **Subd. 10. Transfer report not required.** Eliminates the exception to completing a transfer report under section 2 for firearms transfers where a transferee permit is proffered as proof of firearms eligibility.
- **Subd. 11. Penalty.** Increases the criminal penalty for making a false statement to obtain a transferee permit from a gross misdemeanor to a felony.
- Subd. 12. Local regulation. No changes.

2 Report of transfer.

- **Subd. 1. Required information.** Extends the requirement to file a transfer report to all firearms—not just for pistols and semiautomatic military-style assault weapon transfers.
- **Subd. 2. Investigation.** No change.
- **Subd. 3. Notification.** Conforming change.
- **Subd. 4. Delivery.** Conforming changes.
- Subd. 5. Grounds for disqualification. Conforming change.
- **Subd. 6. Transferee permit.** Eliminates the option for a person who is approved to receive a firearm through the report of transfer process to automatically receive a transferee permit.
- **Subd. 8. Report not required.** Eliminates the exception to the transfer report requirement for those who possess a transferee permit.
- Subd. 9. Number of firearms. Conforming changes.
- **Subd. 10. Restriction on records.** Conforming changes.
- **Subd. 11. Forms; cost.** No change.
- **Subd. 12. Exclusions.** Conforming changes.
- **Subd. 13. Appeal.** Conforming changes.
- **Subd. 14. Transfer to unknown party.** Repeals language about transferring firearms to unknown parties. This language will be obsolete if all firearm transfers require a background check.
- Subd. 15. Penalties. Conforming changes.
- Subd. 16. Local regulation. Conforming change.

Section Description

3 Private party transfers; background check required.

- **Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines "firearms dealer," "state or federally issued identification," and "relative" for purposes of this section.
- **Subd. 2. Background check and evidence of identity.** Requires that a private party who wishes to receive a firearm from another private party present a valid transferee permit and government issued identification.
- **Subd. 3. Record of transfer; required information.** Requires that private parties who transfer a firearm under subdivision 2 to complete a record of transfer. Specifies the information that must be included in the record of transfer including the firearm's serial number, type, manufacturer, and model. The report must also contain a photocopy of the transferee's permit and ID. Both parties must retain a copy of the record of transfer.
- **Subd. 4. Compulsory production of a record of transfer; gross misdemeanor penalty.** Requires both parties to a private firearms transfer to produce the record of transfer upon the request of a law enforcement officer who is investigating a crime. A person who refuses or is unable to produce a record of transfer upon request is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
- **Subd. 5. Immunity.** Grants immunity from prosecution under this section to persons who present a valid record of transfer.
- **Subd. 6. Exclusions.** Establishes exceptions to the background check requirements of this section for certain firearm transfers. Transfers involving a firearms dealer or a law enforcement agency and transfers between immediate family members, among various other transfers, are excluded.



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