
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 196 (File 33, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECORDING OF PISTOL AND REVOLVER SALES IN A BOUND BOOK.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires gun dealers to (1) keep their handgun sale records in a form prescribed by federal law, rather than by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner, and (2) make the records available for inspection at the request of any local or sworn state police officer or investigator on the State-wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force. Current law does not specify who has access to the records; but, in practice, they are available to local and state police and other law enforcement officials.

By law, the penalty for failing to maintain the records as required is a fine of up to \$500, imprisonment for up to three years, or both (CGS § 29-37). The bill extends the penalty to failure to grant law enforcement officials access to the records.

*Senate Amendment "A" requires gun dealers to give local police access to their handgun sale records.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

RECORDKEEPING SYSTEM FOR GUN TRANSACTIONS

Under current state law, a gun dealer must record handgun (pistols or revolvers) sales in a book kept solely for that purpose (commonly called a bound book). The record must be in a form the DESPP commissioner prescribes and include (1) the date the firearm is sold; (2) its caliber, make, model, and serial number; and (3) the buyer's name, address, and occupation. Both the dealer and buyer must sign the record in each other's presence, and the dealer must preserve it for at least six years.

The bill requires gun dealers to keep their records in a form prescribed by federal law, which requires them to keep a bound book with firearm receipt and sales data for inspection by federal law enforcement officers. Federal law generally requires the same data as state law and requires the dealers to keep the record for 20 years.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/01/2012)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 40 Nay 0 (04/17/2012)