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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 5307

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ROLE OF MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS IN FIREARM PERMITTING, TAKING OF FINGERPRINTS FOR CERTAIN OUT-OF-STATE FIREARM PERMIT APPLICANTS AND SUBMISSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS ACCOMPANYING FIREARM PERMIT RENEWALS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

In municipalities that do not have a police chief, current law authorizes the first selectman or borough warden to perform various firearms permitting and administrative functions. This bill instead authorizes the municipality's chief executive officer (CEO) to perform these functions or designate the resident state trooper, or a state police officer from the troop with jurisdiction over the municipality, to do so.

By law, a nonresident with a valid out-of-state gun permit may apply directly to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner for a Connecticut handgun permit. The bill extends to the DESPP commissioner, for purposes of processing these permit applications, the same fingerprinting and positive identification procedures required under existing law for local officials processing temporary state handgun permit applications.

Lastly, the bill (1) requires that the photograph handgun permit holders must submit with their permit renewal applications be a full-face photo and (2) eliminates the requirement that it be notarized or date stamped.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

#### **FIREARMS PERMITTING BY LOCAL OFFICIALS**

The bill authorizes the CEO of any municipality (i.e., town, city, consolidated town and city, borough, or consolidated town and borough) without a police chief to perform the functions described

below, rather than just a town's first selectman or borough's warden. It also authorizes these municipal CEOs to designate the municipality's resident state trooper, or a state police officer from the State Police troop with jurisdiction over the municipality, to perform these functions.

The bill applies these provisions to the laws on (1) issuing gun dealer and temporary state handgun permits and (2) receiving copies of receipts for handgun and long gun sales and transfers. It also makes conforming changes to the law requiring gun show promoters to notify the host town's local official of the show date, time, duration, and location.

### **FINGERPRINTING AND IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The bill requires the DESPP commissioner to take the fingerprints of nonresident handgun permit applicants or conduct other positive identification methods required by the State Police Bureau of Identification (SPBI) or Federal Bureau of Investigation. If he determines that the applicant's fingerprints have previously been taken and the applicant presents identification that the commissioner determines is valid, he does not have to take the fingerprints again. The commissioner must record the date the fingerprints were taken in the applicant's file and, within five business days, forward the fingerprints or other positive identification to SPBI for criminal history checks.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### ***Municipal CEOs***

By law, each municipality with a charter adopted or amended under the statutes must have a chief executive officer, who may be the (1) first selectman; (2) chief administrative officer appointed by the board of selectmen or mayor; (3) mayor; (4) borough warden; or (5) appointed town, city, or borough manager (CGS § 7-193). In towns that have a board of selectman as their executive authority, the first selectman is the chief executive officer unless the law provides otherwise (CGS § 7-12a).

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/15/2022)