

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 23-25—SB 973**

*Public Safety and Security Committee*

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING ACCESS TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY RECORDS TO EVALUATE A PROPOSED TRANSFER OF A FIREARM TO A PERSON UNDER AGE TWENTY-ONE**

**SUMMARY:** This act gives municipal, state, and federal agency employees and authorized agents access to juvenile delinquency case records if they are involved in evaluating a proposed firearm transfer to someone under age 21, as the federal Bipartisan Safer Communities Act requires. By law, juvenile delinquency case records are generally confidential and for the juvenile court's use, with specific exceptions.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2023

**BACKGROUND**

*Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)*

The BSCA amends the Gun Control Act of 1968 to prohibit firearm transfers to people who have potentially disqualifying juvenile records (P.L. 117-159, § 12001). It also extends National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) background check procedures to those ages 18 to 21 to screen for disqualifying juvenile or mental health records and gives authorities up to 10 business days to make eligibility determinations. Under this law, NICS must immediately contact three possible sources of disqualifying juvenile records for people under age 21 in the jurisdiction where they reside, including state repositories of juvenile justice information and local law enforcement agencies.