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Firearm Purchase Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Matt MacPherson

Senate Sponsor:

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LONG TITLE

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General Description:

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This bill addresses provisions related to the purchase of a firearm.

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Highlighted Provisions:

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This bill:

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- 8 ▶ removes a requirement that a Federal Firearms Licensee use a certain form provided by
- 9 the Bureau of Criminal Identification (bureau) when selling a firearm;
- 10 ▶ extends the amount of time that the bureau may maintain records from a criminal history
- 11 background check from 20 days to 30 days; and
- 12 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

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Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

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Other Special Clauses:

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None

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Utah Code Sections Affected:

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AMENDS:

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53-5a-602, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 208

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

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Section 1. Section **53-5a-602** is amended to read:

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53-5a-602 . Criminal background check prior to purchase of a firearm -- Fee --

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Exemption for concealed firearm permit holders and law enforcement officers.

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(1)(a) To establish personal identification and residence in this state for purposes of this

26 part, a dealer shall require an individual receiving a firearm to present one photo

27 identification on a form issued by a governmental agency of the state.

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(b) A dealer may not accept a driving privilege card issued under Section 53-3-207 as

29 proof of identification for the purpose of establishing personal identification and

30 residence in this state as required under this Subsection (1).

31 (2)(a) A criminal history background check is required for the sale of a firearm by a
32 licensed firearm dealer in the state.

33 (b) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply to the sale of a firearm to a Federal Firearms
34 Licensee.

35 ~~[(3)(a) An individual purchasing a firearm from a dealer shall consent in writing to a
36 criminal background check, on a form provided by the bureau.]~~

37 ~~[(b) The form shall contain the following information:]~~

38 ~~[(i) the dealer identification number;]~~

39 ~~[(ii) the name and address of the individual receiving the firearm;]~~

40 ~~[(iii) the date of birth, height, weight, eye color, and hair color of the individual
41 receiving the firearm; and]~~

42 ~~[(iv) the social security number or any other identification number of the individual
43 receiving the firearm.]~~

44 ~~[(4)] (3)[(a) The dealer shall send the information required by Subsection (3) to the
45 bureau immediately upon its receipt by the dealer.]~~

46 ~~[(b)] A dealer may not sell or transfer a firearm to an individual until the dealer has[
47 provided the bureau with the information in Subsection (3) and has] received
48 approval from the bureau under Subsection [(6)] (5).~~

49 ~~[(5)] (4) The dealer shall make a request for criminal history background information by
50 telephone or other electronic means to the bureau and shall receive approval or denial of
51 the inquiry by telephone or other electronic means.~~

52 ~~[(6)] (5) When the dealer calls for or requests a criminal history background check, the
53 bureau shall:~~

54 (a) review the criminal history files, including juvenile court records, and the temporary
55 restricted file created under Section 53-5a-504, to determine if the individual is
56 prohibited from purchasing, possessing, or transferring a firearm by state or federal
57 law;

58 (b) inform the dealer that:

59 (i) the records indicate the individual is prohibited; or

60 (ii) the individual is approved for purchasing, possessing, or transferring a firearm;

61 (c) provide the dealer with a unique transaction number for that inquiry; and

62 (d) provide a response to the requesting dealer during the call for a criminal background
63 check, or by return call, or other electronic means, without delay, except in case of
64 electronic failure or other circumstances beyond the control of the bureau, the bureau

65 shall advise the dealer of the reason for the delay and give the dealer an estimate of
66 the length of the delay.

67 [67] (6)(a) The bureau may not maintain any records of the criminal history background
68 check longer than [20] 30 days from the date of the dealer's request, if the bureau
69 determines that the individual receiving the firearm is not prohibited from
70 purchasing, possessing, or transferring the firearm under state or federal law.

71 (b) However, the bureau shall maintain a log of requests containing the dealer's federal
72 firearms number, the transaction number, and the transaction date for a period of 12
73 months.

74 [68] (7)(a) If the criminal history background check discloses information indicating that
75 the individual attempting to purchase the firearm is prohibited from purchasing,
76 possessing, or transferring a firearm, the bureau shall:

77 (i) within 24 hours after determining that the purchaser is prohibited from purchasing,
78 possessing, or transferring a firearm, notify the law enforcement agency in the
79 jurisdiction where the dealer is located; and

80 (ii) inform the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the individual
81 resides.

82 (b) Subsection [(8)(a)] (7)(a) does not apply to an individual prohibited from purchasing
83 a firearm solely due to placement on the temporary restricted list under Section
84 53-5a-504.

85 (c) A law enforcement agency that receives information from the bureau under
86 Subsection [(8)(a)] (7)(a) shall provide a report before August 1 of each year to the
87 bureau that includes:

88 (i) based on the information the bureau provides to the law enforcement agency under
89 Subsection [(8)(a)] (7)(a), the number of cases that involve an individual who is
90 prohibited from purchasing, possessing, or transferring a firearm as a result of a
91 conviction for an offense involving domestic violence; and

92 (ii) of the cases described in Subsection [(8)(e)(i)] (7)(c)(i):

93 (A) the number of cases the law enforcement agency investigates; and

94 (B) the number of cases the law enforcement agency investigates that result in a
95 criminal charge.

96 (d) The bureau shall:

97 (i) compile the information from the reports described in Subsection [(8)(e);] (7)(c);
98 (ii) omit or redact any identifying information in the compilation; and

(iii) submit the compilation to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee before November 1 of each year.

[(9)] (8) If an individual is denied the right to purchase a firearm under this section, the individual may review the individual's criminal history information and may challenge or amend the information as provided in Section 53-10-108.

[{10}] (9) The bureau shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to ensure the identity, confidentiality, and security of all records provided by the bureau under this part are in conformance with the requirements of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, Pub. L. No. 103-159, 107 Stat. 1536 (1993).

[44] (10)(a) A dealer shall collect a criminal history background check fee for the sale of a firearm under this section.

(b) The fee described under Subsection [(11)(a)] (10)(a) remains in effect until changed by the bureau through the process described in Section 63J-1-504.

(c)(i) The dealer shall forward at one time all fees collected for criminal history background checks performed during the month to the bureau by the last day of the month following the sale of a firearm.

(ii) The bureau shall deposit the fees [in] into the General Fund as dedicated credits to cover the cost of administering and conducting the criminal history background check program.

[¶12] (11)(a) An individual with a concealed firearm permit issued under Section 53-5a-303 or a provisional concealed firearm permit issued under Section 53-5a-304 is exempt from the background check and corresponding fee required in this section for the purchase of a firearm if:

- (i) the individual presents the individual's concealed firearm permit to the dealer prior to purchase of the firearm; and

(ii) the dealer verifies with the bureau that the individual's concealed firearm permit is valid.

(b) An individual with a temporary permit to carry a concealed firearm issued under Section 53-5a-305 is not exempt from a background check and the corresponding fee required in this section for the purchase of a firearm.

[{13}] (12)(a) A law enforcement officer, as defined in Section 53-13-103, is exempt from the background check fee required in this section for the purchase of a personal firearm to be carried while off-duty if the law enforcement officer verifies current

133 employment by providing a letter of good standing from the officer's commanding
134 officer and current law enforcement photo identification.

135 (b) Subsection [(13)(a)] (12)(a) may only be used by a law enforcement officer to
136 purchase a personal firearm once in a 24-month period.

137 [(14)] (13) A dealer engaged in the business of selling, leasing, or otherwise transferring a
138 firearm shall:

139 (a) make the firearm safety brochure described in Subsection 26B-5-211(3) available to
140 a customer free of charge; and

141 (b) at the time of purchase, distribute a cable-style gun lock provided to the dealer under
142 Subsection 26B-5-211(3) to a customer purchasing a shotgun, short barreled shotgun,
143 short barreled rifle, rifle, or another firearm that federal law does not require be
144 accompanied by a gun lock at the time of purchase.

145 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

146 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.