



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 22
[2015 Senate Bill 35]

Handgun Purchases

CURRENT LAW

Under current Wisconsin law, when a federally licensed firearms dealer sells a handgun, he or she may not transfer possession of the handgun to any other person until all of the following has occurred:

- The person has provided photo identification.
- The person has completed a notification form requiring him or her to provide his or her name, date of birth, gender, race and Social Security number and other identification necessary to permit an accurate firearms restriction record search.
- The firearms dealer has conveyed the information from the completed notification form to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and requested a firearms restrictions record search.
- Forty-eight hours have elapsed from the time that the firearms dealer has received a confirmation number regarding the firearms restrictions record search from DOJ and the firearms dealer has not been notified that the person is prohibited from possessing a firearm.

If the firearms restrictions record search indicates a felony charge has been entered against the person with no recorded disposition, the deadline for DOJ to complete the search is extended to the end of the third working day commencing after the day on which the finding is made.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

2015 WISCONSIN ACT 22

2015 Wisconsin Act 22 eliminates the requirement that a federally licensed firearm dealer wait 48 hours after submitting a request for a firearm restrictions search to DOJ to transfer the handgun to the transferee. Under the Act, a federally licensed firearm dealer may transfer the handgun once the dealer has received an approval number from DOJ regarding the firearm restrictions record search. The Act also provides that if the firearms restrictions record search indicates that it is unclear whether the person is prohibited under state or federal law from possessing a firearm and DOJ needs more time to make the determination, DOJ must make every reasonable effort to determine whether the person is prohibited from possessing a firearm and notify the dealer as soon as practicable, but no later than five working days after the search was requested.

Effective date: 2015 Act 22 takes effect on June 26, 2015.

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