

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act Regarding the Sale of Weapons at Gun Shows

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2013 is enacted to read:

§ 2013. Operation of gun show

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Gun show" means an event or function:

(1) Whose purpose is to facilitate the purchase and sale of firearms;

(2) At which 3 or more vendors of firearms offer firearms for sale; and

(3) At which 25 or more firearms are offered for sale.

B. "Licensed firearms dealer" means a person who is licensed pursuant to 18 United States Code, Section 923 as a firearms dealer.

C. "National instant criminal background check" means the background check established under Section 103 of the federal Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, Public Law 103-159.

2. Background checks at gun shows; liability of gun show operator. A firearm may not be sold or transferred at a gun show unless the seller or transferor conducts a national instant criminal background check of the purchaser or transferee. Each sale or transfer made without the required national instant criminal background check is a violation of this section by the gun show operator and is subject to subsection 4.

3. Gun show operator. The gun show operator shall:

A. At all times during the gun show conspicuously post and maintain signs stating:

"A national instant criminal background check must be completed prior to all firearm sales or transfers, including sales or transfers of rifles or shotguns."

Signs must be posted at all entrances to the gun show and at all places where admission tickets to the gun show are sold;

B. Notify in writing all firearms vendors at the gun show that a national instant criminal background check must be completed prior to all firearm sales or transfers; and

C. Provide access by an unlicensed seller or transferor of firearms at the gun show to at least one licensed firearms dealer at the gun show who will undertake a national instant criminal background check on behalf of the unlicensed seller or transferor at cost. A licensed firearms dealer who performs a national instant criminal background check pursuant to this paragraph shall provide the unlicensed seller or transferor of the firearm with a copy of the United States Department of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Form 4473. The licensed firearms dealer shall retain the completed form for a period of 10 years and make it available for inspection by law enforcement agencies.

4. Penalty. A gun show operator who violates subsection 2 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$10,000 may be adjudged.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that a national instant criminal background check be performed prior to the sale or transfer of a firearm at a gun show. The bill makes a gun show operator responsible for any failure to perform a required background check and subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 for each such failure. The bill also requires gun show operators to post signs at gun shows and notify exhibitors of the background check requirement and to provide unlicensed sellers and transferors with access to licensed sellers and transferors who will undertake the required background checks.