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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide for a grant program for handgun licensing programs, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RASKIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To provide for a grant program for handgun licensing programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Handgun Purchaser  
5 Licensing Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) In 2017, 91 percent of firearm homicides in  
2 the United States in which firearm type was speci-  
3 fied were committed with handguns.

4           (2) Research by top national experts shows that  
5 handgun purchaser licensing laws are associated  
6 with significant reductions in firearm-related homi-  
7 cides. Research on the effects of Connecticut's adop-  
8 tion of a handgun purchaser licensing law in 1995  
9 was associated with a 40 percent reduction in the  
10 rate of firearm homicide and a 15 percent reduction  
11 in firearm suicide rates during the first 10 years the  
12 law was in place. Published research has shown that  
13 Missouri's repeal of its handgun purchaser licensing  
14 law in 2007 was associated with an increase in fire-  
15 arm homicide rates in the state of 27 percent and  
16 a 16 percent increase in suicides committed with  
17 firearms.

18           (3) In States which have had effective handgun  
19 purchaser licensing laws for decades, such as Con-  
20 necticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York,  
21 the vast majority of guns traced to crimes originated  
22 in other States, which supports the need for hand-  
23 gun purchaser licensing laws in every State.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act—

1           (1) the terms “Attorney General”, “State”, and  
2           “handgun” have the meanings given those terms in  
3           section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code; and

4           (2) the term “Indian tribe” has the meaning  
5           given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-  
6           mination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.  
7           5304).

8   **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED FOR HANDGUN LI-**  
9                                   **CENSING.**

10          (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General may award  
11          grants to States, units of local government, and Indian  
12          tribes for the development, implementation, and evalua-  
13          tion of handgun purchaser licensing requirements.

14          (b) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—From the amounts ap-  
15          propriated to carry out this Act and not later than 90  
16          days after such amounts are appropriated, the Attorney  
17          General shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eli-  
18          gible applicants whose applications are approved under  
19          subsection (c) to assist such applicants in implementing  
20          and improving handgun purchaser licensing programs.

21          (c) **APPLICATION.**—To be eligible to receive a grant  
22          under this Act, a State, unit of local government, or In-  
23          dian tribe shall submit to the Attorney General an applica-  
24          tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such

1 information as the Attorney General may require, includ-  
2 ing—

3 (1) a description of the law that the applicant  
4 has enacted to require a license for any purchase of  
5 a handgun including a description of any other ex-  
6 emptions to such law; and

7 (2) a description of how the applicant will use  
8 the grant to carry out or improve its handgun pur-  
9 chaser licensing program.

10 (d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for  
11 grants, an applicant shall have in effect handgun pur-  
12 chaser licensing laws that include the following provisions:

13 (1) An individual applying for a handgun li-  
14 cense or permit must be not less than 21 years old  
15 and be a national or lawful permanent resident of  
16 the United States.

17 (2) Such an individual must apply for the hand-  
18 gun purchaser license or permit at a law enforce-  
19 ment agency in the State in which they reside.

20 (3) Such an individual must reapply for the  
21 handgun purchaser license or permit after a period  
22 not longer than 5 years.

23 (4) Such an individual must submit to a back-  
24 ground investigation, and a criminal history check,  
25 in connection with their application, as established

1 by the State, which background investigation and  
2 criminal history check ensure, at a minimum, that  
3 such individual is not prohibited from possessing a  
4 firearm under section 922(g) of title 18, United  
5 States Code.

6 (5) Such an individual must submit fingerprints  
7 and photographs in connection with the application  
8 for the license or permit.

9 (6) Any individual who is prohibited from pos-  
10 sesseding a firearm under section 922(g) of title 18,  
11 United States Code, may not receive a license or  
12 permit.

13 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant under  
14 this Act shall use such grant to improve handgun pur-  
15 chaser licensing programs of that grantee.

16 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
18 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.