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**REPORTS:** No  
**HEARINGS:** No  
**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"Law puts a limit on handgun purchases," The Star-Ledger, 8-7-09, p. 13  
"Governor signs off on new gun restrictions," The Record, 8-7-09, p. A04  
"Corzine signs 'one gun a month' legislation," NewJerseyNewsroom.com, 8-7-09, <http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/state/corzine-signs-one-gun-a-month-legislation>  
"Corzine signs gun purchase restrictions," Asbury Park Press, 8-7-09, p.A7  
"Corzine signs '1 handgun a month' bill; Palmer cites death of 13-year-old girl, The Times, 8-7-09, p. A01  
"Corzine signs '1handgun a month 'bill", Burlington County Times, 8-7-09  
"Corzine signs law limiting gun buys," The Philadelphia Inquirer, 8-7-09, p. B01  
"War on weapons," The Trentonian, 8-7-09, p. 3  
"Corzine hails handgun law," Courier-Post, 8-7-09, p.1B  
"One-gun-a-month law signed by Corz critics: Won't work," The Jersey Journal, 8-7-09, p. A4  
"Corzine inks'1 handgun a month' bill," Courier News, 8-7-09  
"Corzine signs law limiting handgun purchases, Philadelphia Inquirer, 8-7-09, p. B01

LAW/RWH

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 339**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**213th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman JOAN M. QUIGLEY**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblyman JOSEPH VAS**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

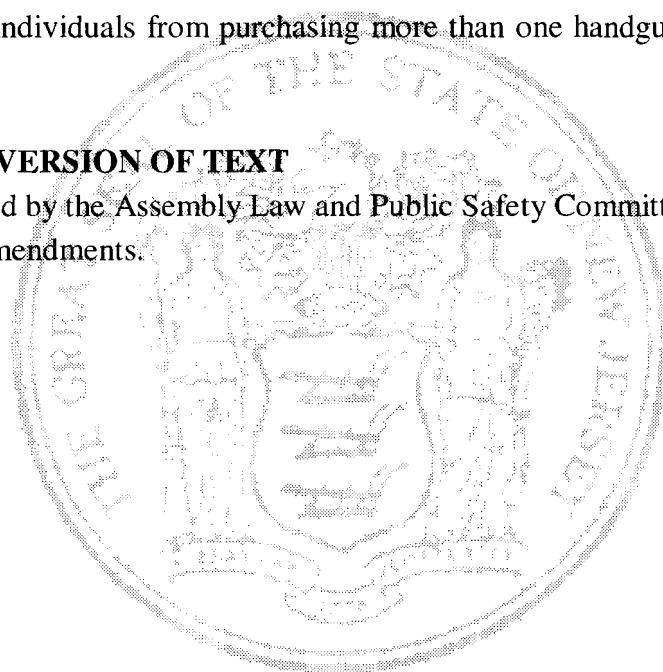
**Assemblywomen Oliver, Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen Johnson, Schaer, Gusciora, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Coutinho, Ramos, Senators Cunningham, Ruiz, Redd and Whelan**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits individuals from purchasing more than one handgun in a calendar month.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee on March 3, 2008, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2009)**

1 AN ACT concerning handgun sales and purchases and amending  
2 N.J.S.2C:58-2 and N.J.S.2C:58-3.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. N.J.S.2C:58-2 is amended to read as follows:

8 2C:58-2. a. Licensing of retail dealers and their employees. No  
9 retail dealer of firearms nor any employee of a retail dealer shall  
10 sell or expose for sale, or possess with the intent of selling, any  
11 firearm unless licensed to do so as hereinafter provided. The  
12 superintendent shall prescribe standards and qualifications for retail  
13 dealers of firearms and their employees for the protection of the  
14 public safety, health and welfare.

15 Applications shall be made in the form prescribed by the  
16 superintendent, accompanied by a fee of ~~[\$50.00]~~ \$50 payable to  
17 the superintendent, and shall be made to a judge of the Superior  
18 Court in the county where the applicant maintains his place of  
19 business. The judge shall grant a license to an applicant if he finds  
20 that the applicant meets the standards and qualifications established  
21 by the superintendent and that the applicant can be permitted to  
22 engage in business as a retail dealer of firearms or employee thereof  
23 without any danger to the public safety, health and welfare. Each  
24 license shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of  
25 issuance, and shall authorize the holder to sell firearms at retail in a  
26 specified municipality.

27 In addition, every retail dealer shall pay a fee of ~~[\$5.00]~~ \$5 for  
28 each employee actively engaged in the sale or purchase of firearms.  
29 The superintendent shall issue a license for each employee for  
30 whom said fee has been paid, which license shall be valid for so  
31 long as the employee remains in the employ of said retail dealer.

32 No license shall be granted to any retail dealer under the age of  
33 21 years or to any employee of a retail dealer under the age of 18 or  
34 to any person who could not qualify to obtain a permit to purchase a  
35 handgun or a firearms purchaser identification card, or to any  
36 corporation, partnership or other business organization in which the  
37 actual or equitable controlling interest is held or possessed by such  
38 an ineligible person.

39 All licenses shall be granted subject to the following conditions,  
40 for breach of any of which the license shall be subject to revocation  
41 on the application of any law enforcement officer and after notice  
42 and hearing by the issuing court:

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

**<sup>1</sup>Assembly ALP committee amendments adopted March 3, 2008.**

1 (1) The business shall be carried on only in the building or  
2 buildings designated in the license, provided that repairs may be  
3 made by the dealer or his employees outside of such premises.

4 (2) The license or a copy certified by the issuing authority shall  
5 be displayed at all times in a conspicuous place on the business  
6 premises where it can be easily read.

7 (3) No firearm or imitation thereof shall be placed in any  
8 window or in any other part of the premises where it can be readily  
9 seen from the outside.

10 (4) No rifle or shotgun, except antique rifles or shotguns, shall  
11 be delivered to any person unless such person possesses and  
12 exhibits a valid firearms purchaser identification card and furnishes  
13 the seller, on the form prescribed by the superintendent, a  
14 certification signed by him setting forth his name, permanent  
15 address, firearms purchaser identification card number and such  
16 other information as the superintendent may by rule or regulation  
17 require. The certification shall be retained by the dealer and shall  
18 be made available for inspection by any law enforcement officer at  
19 any reasonable time.

20 (5) No handgun shall be delivered to any person unless:

21 (a) Such person possesses and exhibits a valid permit to  
22 purchase a firearm and at least seven days have elapsed since the  
23 date of application for the permit;

24 (b) The person is personally known to the seller or presents  
25 evidence of his identity;

26 (c) The handgun is unloaded and securely wrapped;

27 (d) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (e) of this  
28 paragraph, the handgun is accompanied by a trigger lock or a locked  
29 case, gun box, container or other secure facility; provided, however,  
30 this provision shall not apply to antique handguns. The exemption  
31 afforded under this subparagraph for antique handguns shall be  
32 narrowly construed, limited solely to the requirements set forth  
33 herein and shall not be deemed to afford or authorize any other  
34 exemption from the regulatory provisions governing firearms set  
35 forth in chapter 39 and chapter 58 of Title 2C of the New Jersey  
36 Statutes; and

37 (e) On and after the first day of the sixth month following the  
38 date on which the list of personalized handguns is prepared and  
39 delivered pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2002, c.130 (C.2C:58-2.4),  
40 the handgun is identified as a personalized handgun and included on  
41 that list or is an antique handgun. The provisions of subparagraph  
42 (d) of this section shall not apply to the delivery of a personalized  
43 handgun.

44 (6) The dealer shall keep a true record of every handgun sold,  
45 given or otherwise delivered or disposed of, in accordance with the  
46 provisions of subsections b. through e. of this section and the record

1 shall note whether a trigger lock, locked case, gun box, container or  
2 other secure facility was delivered along with the handgun.

3 (7) A dealer shall not knowingly deliver more than one handgun  
4 to any person '[in a calendar month] within any 30-day period' .  
5 This limitation shall not apply to:

6 (a) a federal, State, or local law enforcement officer or agency  
7 purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance  
8 of their law enforcement duties;

9 (b) a collector of handguns as curios or relics as defined in Title  
10 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who has in his  
11 possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by  
12 the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;  
13 or

14 (c) transfers of handguns between licensed retail dealers.

15 b. Records. Every person engaged in the retail business of  
16 selling, leasing or otherwise transferring a handgun, as a retail  
17 dealer or otherwise, shall keep a register in which shall be entered  
18 the time of the sale, lease or other transfer, the date thereof, the  
19 name, age, date of birth, complexion, occupation, residence and a  
20 physical description including distinguishing physical  
21 characteristics, if any, of the purchaser, lessee or transferee, the  
22 name and permanent home address of the person making the sale,  
23 lease or transfer, the place of the transaction, and the make, model,  
24 manufacturer's number, caliber and other marks of identification on  
25 such handgun and such other information as the superintendent  
26 shall deem necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter.  
27 The register shall be retained by the dealer and shall be made  
28 available at all reasonable hours for inspection by any law  
29 enforcement officer.

30 c. Forms of register. The superintendent shall prepare the form  
31 of the register as described in subsection b. of this section and  
32 furnish the same in triplicate to each person licensed to be engaged  
33 in the business of selling, leasing or otherwise transferring firearms.

34 d. Signatures in register. The purchaser, lessee or transferee of  
35 any handgun shall sign, and the dealer shall require him to sign his  
36 name to the register, in triplicate, and the person making the sale,  
37 lease or transfer shall affix his name, in triplicate, as a witness to  
38 the signature. The signatures shall constitute a representation of the  
39 accuracy of the information contained in the register.

40 e. Copies of register entries; delivery to chief of police or  
41 county clerk. Within five days of the date of the sale, assignment or  
42 transfer, the dealer shall deliver or mail by certified mail, return  
43 receipt requested, legible copies of the register forms to the office  
44 of the chief of police of the municipality in which the purchaser  
45 resides, or to the office of the captain of the precinct of the  
46 municipality in which the purchaser resides, and to the

1 superintendent. If hand delivered a receipt shall be given to the  
2 dealer therefor.

3 Where a sale, assignment or transfer is made to a purchaser who  
4 resides in a municipality having no chief of police, the dealer shall,  
5 within five days of the transaction, mail a duplicate copy of the  
6 register sheet to the clerk of the county within which the purchaser  
7 resides.

8 (cf: P.L.2002, c.130, s.6)

9

10 2. N.J.S.2C:58-3 is amended to read as follows:

11 2C:58-3. Purchase of Firearms.

12 a. Permit to purchase a handgun. No person shall sell, give,  
13 transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of, nor receive, purchase, or  
14 otherwise acquire a handgun unless the purchaser, assignee, donee,  
15 receiver or holder is licensed as a dealer under this chapter or has  
16 first secured a permit to purchase a handgun as provided by this  
17 section.

18 b. Firearms purchaser identification card. No person shall sell,  
19 give, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of nor receive, purchase  
20 or otherwise acquire an antique cannon or a rifle or shotgun, other  
21 than an antique rifle or shotgun, unless the purchaser, assignee,  
22 donee, receiver or holder is licensed as a dealer under this chapter  
23 or possesses a valid firearms purchaser identification card, and first  
24 exhibits said card to the seller, donor, transferor or assignor, and  
25 unless the purchaser, assignee, donee, receiver or holder signs a  
26 written certification, on a form prescribed by the superintendent,  
27 which shall indicate that he presently complies with the  
28 requirements of subsection c. of this section and shall contain his  
29 name, address and firearms purchaser identification card number or  
30 dealer's registration number. The said certification shall be retained  
31 by the seller, as provided in <sup>1</sup>~~section 2C:58-2a.~~ paragraph (4) of  
32 subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:58-2<sup>1</sup>, or, in the case of a person who is  
33 not a dealer, it may be filed with the chief of police of the  
34 municipality in which he resides or with the superintendent.

35 c. Who may obtain. No person of good character and good  
36 repute in the community in which he lives, and who is not subject to  
37 any of the disabilities set forth in this section or other sections of  
38 this chapter, shall be denied a permit to purchase a handgun or a  
39 firearms purchaser identification card, except as hereinafter set  
40 forth. No handgun purchase permit or firearms purchaser  
41 identification card shall be issued:

42 (1) To any person who has been convicted of any crime, or a  
43 disorderly persons offense involving an act of domestic violence as  
44 defined in section 3 of P.L.1991,c.261(C.2C:25-19), whether or not  
45 armed with or possessing a weapon at the time of such offense;

46 (2) To any drug dependent person as defined in section 2 of  
47 P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-2), to any person who is confined for a

1 mental disorder to a hospital, mental institution or sanitarium, or to  
2 any person who is presently an habitual drunkard;

3 (3) To any person who suffers from a physical defect or disease  
4 which would make it unsafe for him to handle firearms, to any  
5 person who has ever been confined for a mental disorder, or to any  
6 alcoholic unless any of the foregoing persons produces a certificate  
7 of a medical doctor or psychiatrist licensed in New Jersey, or other  
8 satisfactory proof, that he is no longer suffering from that particular  
9 disability in such a manner that would interfere with or handicap  
10 him in the handling of firearms; to any person who knowingly  
11 falsifies any information on the application form for a handgun  
12 purchase permit or firearms purchaser identification card;

13 (4) To any person under the age of 18 years for a firearms  
14 purchaser identification card and to any person under the age of 21  
15 years for a permit to purchase a handgun;

16 (5) To any person where the issuance would not be in the  
17 interest of the public health, safety or welfare;

18 (6) To any person who is subject to a restraining order issued  
19 pursuant to the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,"  
20 P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) prohibiting the person from  
21 possessing any firearm;

22 (7) To any person who as a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent  
23 for an offense which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a  
24 crime and the offense involved the unlawful use or possession of a  
25 weapon, explosive or destructive device or is enumerated in  
26 subsection d. of section 2 of P.L.1997, c.117 (C.2C:43-7.2); or

27 (8) To any person whose firearm is seized pursuant to the  
28 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261  
29 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) and whose firearm has not been returned.

30 d. Issuance. The chief of police of an organized full-time  
31 police department of the municipality where the applicant resides or  
32 the superintendent, in all other cases, shall upon application, issue  
33 to any person qualified under the provisions of subsection c. of this  
34 section a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms purchaser  
35 identification card.

36 Any person aggrieved by the denial of a permit or identification  
37 card may request a hearing in the Superior Court of the county in  
38 which he resides if he is a resident of New Jersey or in the Superior  
39 Court of the county in which his application was filed if he is a  
40 nonresident. The request for a hearing shall be made in writing  
41 within 30 days of the denial of the application for a permit or  
42 identification card. The applicant shall serve a copy of his request  
43 for a hearing upon the chief of police of the municipality in which  
44 he resides, if he is a resident of New Jersey, and upon the  
45 superintendent in all cases. The hearing shall be held and a record  
46 made thereof within 30 days of the receipt of the application for  
47 such hearing by the judge of the Superior Court. No formal



1 pleading and no filing fee shall be required as a preliminary to such  
2 hearing. Appeals from the results of such hearing shall be in  
3 accordance with law.

4 e. Applications. Applications for permits to purchase a  
5 handgun and for firearms purchaser identification cards shall be in  
6 the form prescribed by the superintendent and shall set forth the  
7 name, residence, place of business, age, date of birth, occupation,  
8 sex and physical description, including distinguishing physical  
9 characteristics, if any, of the applicant, and shall state whether the  
10 applicant is a citizen, whether he is an alcoholic, habitual drunkard,  
11 drug dependent person as defined in section 2 of P.L.1970, c.226  
12 (C.24:21-2), whether he has ever been confined or committed to a  
13 mental institution or hospital for treatment or observation of a  
14 mental or psychiatric condition on a temporary, interim or  
15 permanent basis, giving the name and location of the institution or  
16 hospital and the dates of such confinement or commitment, whether  
17 he has been attended, treated or observed by any doctor or  
18 psychiatrist or at any hospital or mental institution on an inpatient  
19 or outpatient basis for any mental or psychiatric condition, giving  
20 the name and location of the doctor, psychiatrist, hospital or  
21 institution and the dates of such occurrence, whether he presently or  
22 ever has been a member of any organization which advocates or  
23 approves the commission of acts of force and violence to overthrow  
24 the Government of the United States or of this State, or which seeks  
25 to deny others their rights under the Constitution of either the  
26 United States or the State of New Jersey, whether he has ever been  
27 convicted of a crime or disorderly persons offense, whether the  
28 person is subject to a restraining order issued pursuant to the  
29 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261  
30 (C.2C:25-17 et. seq.) prohibiting the person from possessing any  
31 firearm, and such other information as the superintendent shall  
32 deem necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter. For the  
33 purpose of complying with this subsection, the applicant shall  
34 waive any statutory or other right of confidentiality relating to  
35 institutional confinement. The application shall be signed by the  
36 applicant and shall contain as references the names and addresses of  
37 two reputable citizens personally acquainted with him.

38 Application blanks shall be obtainable from the superintendent,  
39 from any other officer authorized to grant such permit or  
40 identification card, and from licensed retail dealers.

41 The chief police officer or the superintendent shall obtain the  
42 fingerprints of the applicant and shall have them compared with any  
43 and all records of fingerprints in the municipality and county in  
44 which the applicant resides and also the records of the State Bureau  
45 of Identification and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, provided  
46 that an applicant for a handgun purchase permit who possesses a  
47 valid firearms purchaser identification card, or who has previously

1 obtained a handgun purchase permit from the same licensing  
2 authority for which he was previously fingerprinted, and who  
3 provides other reasonably satisfactory proof of his identity, need not  
4 be fingerprinted again; however, the chief police officer or the  
5 superintendent shall proceed to investigate the application to  
6 determine whether or not the applicant has become subject to any of  
7 the disabilities set forth in this chapter.

8 f. Granting of permit or identification card; fee; term; renewal;  
9 revocation. The application for the permit to purchase a handgun  
10 together with a fee of ~~[\$2.00]~~ \$2, or the application for the firearms  
11 purchaser identification card together with a fee of ~~[\$5.00]~~ \$5,  
12 shall be delivered or forwarded to the licensing authority who shall  
13 investigate the same and, unless good cause for the denial thereof  
14 appears, shall grant the permit or the identification card, or both, if  
15 application has been made therefor, within 30 days from the date of  
16 receipt of the application for residents of this State and within 45  
17 days for nonresident applicants. A permit to purchase a handgun  
18 shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of issuance and  
19 may be renewed by the issuing authority for good cause for an  
20 additional 90 days. A firearms purchaser identification card shall  
21 be valid until such time as the holder becomes subject to any of the  
22 disabilities set forth in subsection c. of this section, whereupon the  
23 card shall be void and shall be returned within five days by the  
24 holder to the superintendent, who shall then advise the licensing  
25 authority. Failure of the holder to return the firearms purchaser  
26 identification card to the superintendent within the said five days  
27 shall be an offense under <sup>1</sup>~~[section 2C:39-10a]~~ subsection a. of  
28 N.J.S.2C:39-10<sup>1</sup>. Any firearms purchaser identification card may be  
29 revoked by the Superior Court of the county wherein the card was  
30 issued, after hearing upon notice, upon a finding that the holder  
31 thereof no longer qualifies for the issuance of such permit. The  
32 county prosecutor of any county, the chief police officer of any  
33 municipality or any citizen may apply to such court at any time for  
34 the revocation of such card.

35 There shall be no conditions or requirements added to the form  
36 or content of the application, or required by the licensing authority  
37 for the issuance of a permit or identification card, other than those  
38 that are specifically set forth in this chapter.

39 g. Disposition of fees. All fees for permits shall be paid to the  
40 State Treasury if the permit is issued by the superintendent, to the  
41 municipality if issued by the chief of police, and to the county  
42 treasurer if issued by the judge of the Superior Court.

43 h. Form of permit; quadruplicate; disposition of copies. The  
44 permit shall be in the form prescribed by the superintendent and  
45 shall be issued to the applicant in quadruplicate. Prior to the time  
46 he receives the handgun from the seller, the applicant shall deliver  
47 to the seller the permit in quadruplicate and the seller shall

1 complete all of the information required on the form. Within five  
2 days of the date of the sale, the seller shall forward the original  
3 copy to the superintendent and the second copy to the chief of  
4 police of the municipality in which the purchaser resides, except  
5 that in a municipality having no chief of police, such copy shall be  
6 forwarded to the superintendent. The third copy shall then be  
7 returned to the purchaser with the pistol or revolver and the fourth  
8 copy shall be kept by the seller as a permanent record.

9 i. Restriction on number of firearms person may purchase.  
10 Only one handgun shall be purchased or delivered on each permit [,  
11 but a] and no more than one handgun shall be purchased '[in]  
12 within' any '[calendar month] 30-day period', but this limitation  
13 shall not apply to:

14 (1) a federal, State or local law enforcement officer or agency  
15 purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance  
16 of their law enforcement duties;

17 (2) a collector of handguns as curios or relics as defined in Title  
18 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who has in his  
19 possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by  
20 the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;  
21 or

22 (3) transfers of handguns between licensed retail dealers.

23 A person shall not be restricted as to the number of rifles or  
24 shotguns he may purchase, provided he possesses a valid firearms  
25 purchaser identification card and provided further that he signs the  
26 certification required in subsection b. of this section for each  
27 transaction.

28 j. Firearms passing to heirs or legatees. Notwithstanding any  
29 other provision of this section concerning the transfer, receipt or  
30 acquisition of a firearm, a permit to purchase or a firearms  
31 purchaser identification card shall not be required for the passing of  
32 a firearm upon the death of an owner thereof to his heir or legatee,  
33 whether the same be by testamentary bequest or by the laws of  
34 intestacy. The person who shall so receive, or acquire said firearm  
35 shall, however, be subject to all other provisions of this chapter. If  
36 the heir or legatee of such firearm does not qualify to possess or  
37 carry it, he may retain ownership of the firearm for the purpose of  
38 sale for a period not exceeding 180 days, or for such further limited  
39 period as may be approved by the chief law enforcement officer of  
40 the municipality in which the heir or legatee resides or the  
41 superintendent, provided that such firearm is in the custody of the  
42 chief law enforcement officer of the municipality or the  
43 superintendent during such period.

44 k. Sawed-off shotguns. Nothing in this section shall be  
45 construed to authorize the purchase or possession of any sawed-off  
46 shotgun.

A339 [1R] QUIGLEY, VAS

10

1       1. Nothing in this section and in N.J.S.2C:58-2 shall apply to  
2 the sale or purchase of a visual distress signalling device approved  
3 by the United States Coast Guard, solely for possession on a private  
4 or commercial aircraft or any boat; provided, however, that no  
5 person under the age of 18 years shall purchase nor shall any person  
6 sell to a person under the age of 18 years such a visual distress  
7 signalling device.

8 (cf: P.L.2003, c.277, s.4)

9

10       3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fifth month  
11 following enactment.

**ASSEMBLY, No. 339**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**213th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman JOAN M. QUIGLEY**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblyman JOSEPH VAS**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

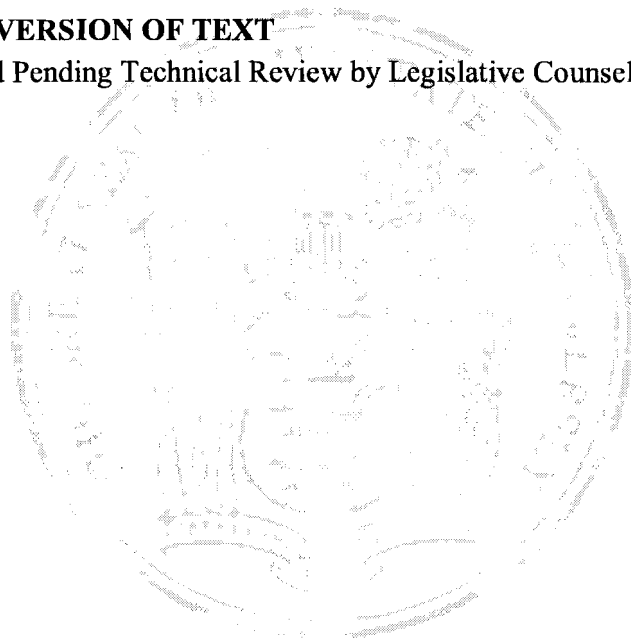
**Assemblywomen Oliver, Vainieri Huttie, Assemblymen Johnson, Schaer,  
Gusciora and Assemblywoman Lampitt**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits individuals from purchasing more than one handgun in a calendar month.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



A339 QUIGLEY, VAS

2

1 AN ACT concerning handgun sales and purchases and amending  
2 N.J.S.2C:58-2 and N.J.S.2C:58-3.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. N.J.S.2C:58-2 is amended to read as follows:

8 2C:58-2. a. Licensing of retail dealers and their employees. No  
9 retail dealer of firearms nor any employee of a retail dealer shall  
10 sell or expose for sale, or possess with the intent of selling, any  
11 firearm unless licensed to do so as hereinafter provided. The  
12 superintendent shall prescribe standards and qualifications for retail  
13 dealers of firearms and their employees for the protection of the  
14 public safety, health and welfare.

15 Applications shall be made in the form prescribed by the  
16 superintendent, accompanied by a fee of ~~[\$50.00]~~ \$50 payable to  
17 the superintendent, and shall be made to a judge of the Superior  
18 Court in the county where the applicant maintains his place of  
19 business. The judge shall grant a license to an applicant if he finds  
20 that the applicant meets the standards and qualifications established  
21 by the superintendent and that the applicant can be permitted to  
22 engage in business as a retail dealer of firearms or employee thereof  
23 without any danger to the public safety, health and welfare. Each  
24 license shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of  
25 issuance, and shall authorize the holder to sell firearms at retail in a  
26 specified municipality.

27 In addition, every retail dealer shall pay a fee of ~~[\$5.00]~~ \$5 for  
28 each employee actively engaged in the sale or purchase of firearms.  
29 The superintendent shall issue a license for each employee for  
30 whom said fee has been paid, which license shall be valid for so  
31 long as the employee remains in the employ of said retail dealer.

32 No license shall be granted to any retail dealer under the age of  
33 21 years or to any employee of a retail dealer under the age of 18 or  
34 to any person who could not qualify to obtain a permit to purchase a  
35 handgun or a firearms purchaser identification card, or to any  
36 corporation, partnership or other business organization in which the  
37 actual or equitable controlling interest is held or possessed by such  
38 an ineligible person.

39 All licenses shall be granted subject to the following conditions,  
40 for breach of any of which the license shall be subject to revocation  
41 on the application of any law enforcement officer and after notice  
42 and hearing by the issuing court:

43 (1) The business shall be carried on only in the building or  
44 buildings designated in the license, provided that repairs may be  
45 made by the dealer or his employees outside of such premises.

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1       (2) The license or a copy certified by the issuing authority shall  
2 be displayed at all times in a conspicuous place on the business  
3 premises where it can be easily read.

4       (3) No firearm or imitation thereof shall be placed in any  
5 window or in any other part of the premises where it can be readily  
6 seen from the outside.

7       (4) No rifle or shotgun, except antique rifles or shotguns, shall  
8 be delivered to any person unless such person possesses and  
9 exhibits a valid firearms purchaser identification card and furnishes  
10 the seller, on the form prescribed by the superintendent, a  
11 certification signed by him setting forth his name, permanent  
12 address, firearms purchaser identification card number and such  
13 other information as the superintendent may by rule or regulation  
14 require. The certification shall be retained by the dealer and shall  
15 be made available for inspection by any law enforcement officer at  
16 any reasonable time.

17       (5) No handgun shall be delivered to any person unless:

18       (a) Such person possesses and exhibits a valid permit to  
19 purchase a firearm and at least seven days have elapsed since the  
20 date of application for the permit;

21       (b) The person is personally known to the seller or presents  
22 evidence of his identity;

23       (c) The handgun is unloaded and securely wrapped;

24       (d) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (e) of this  
25 paragraph, the handgun is accompanied by a trigger lock or a locked  
26 case, gun box, container or other secure facility; provided, however,  
27 this provision shall not apply to antique handguns. The exemption  
28 afforded under this subparagraph for antique handguns shall be  
29 narrowly construed, limited solely to the requirements set forth  
30 herein and shall not be deemed to afford or authorize any other  
31 exemption from the regulatory provisions governing firearms set  
32 forth in chapter 39 and chapter 58 of Title 2C of the New Jersey  
33 Statutes; and

34       (e) On and after the first day of the sixth month following the  
35 date on which the list of personalized handguns is prepared and  
36 delivered pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2002, c.130 (C.2C:58-2.4),  
37 the handgun is identified as a personalized handgun and included on  
38 that list or is an antique handgun. The provisions of subparagraph  
39 (d) of this section shall not apply to the delivery of a personalized  
40 handgun.

41       (6) The dealer shall keep a true record of every handgun sold,  
42 given or otherwise delivered or disposed of, in accordance with the  
43 provisions of subsections b. through e. of this section and the record  
44 shall note whether a trigger lock, locked case, gun box, container or  
45 other secure facility was delivered along with the handgun.

A339 QUIGLEY, VAS

1       (7) A dealer shall not knowingly deliver more than one handgun  
2 to any person in a calendar month. This limitation shall not apply  
3 to:

4       (a) a federal, State, or local law enforcement officer or agency  
5 purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance  
6 of their law enforcement duties;

7       (b) a collector of handguns as curios or relics as defined in Title  
8 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who has in his  
9 possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by  
10 the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;  
11 or

12       (c) transfers of handguns between licensed retail dealers.

13       b. Records. Every person engaged in the retail business of  
14 selling, leasing or otherwise transferring a handgun, as a retail  
15 dealer or otherwise, shall keep a register in which shall be entered  
16 the time of the sale, lease or other transfer, the date thereof, the  
17 name, age, date of birth, complexion, occupation, residence and a  
18 physical description including distinguishing physical  
19 characteristics, if any, of the purchaser, lessee or transferee, the  
20 name and permanent home address of the person making the sale,  
21 lease or transfer, the place of the transaction, and the make, model,  
22 manufacturer's number, caliber and other marks of identification on  
23 such handgun and such other information as the superintendent  
24 shall deem necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter.  
25 The register shall be retained by the dealer and shall be made  
26 available at all reasonable hours for inspection by any law  
27 enforcement officer.

28       c. Forms of register. The superintendent shall prepare the form  
29 of the register as described in subsection b. of this section and  
30 furnish the same in triplicate to each person licensed to be engaged  
31 in the business of selling, leasing or otherwise transferring firearms.

32       d. Signatures in register. The purchaser, lessee or transferee of  
33 any handgun shall sign, and the dealer shall require him to sign his  
34 name to the register, in triplicate, and the person making the sale,  
35 lease or transfer shall affix his name, in triplicate, as a witness to  
36 the signature. The signatures shall constitute a representation of the  
37 accuracy of the information contained in the register.

38       e. Copies of register entries; delivery to chief of police or  
39 county clerk. Within five days of the date of the sale, assignment or  
40 transfer, the dealer shall deliver or mail by certified mail, return  
41 receipt requested, legible copies of the register forms to the office  
42 of the chief of police of the municipality in which the purchaser  
43 resides, or to the office of the captain of the precinct of the  
44 municipality in which the purchaser resides, and to the  
45 superintendent. If hand delivered a receipt shall be given to the  
46 dealer therefor.



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5

1       Where a sale, assignment or transfer is made to a purchaser who  
2 resides in a municipality having no chief of police, the dealer shall,  
3 within five days of the transaction, mail a duplicate copy of the  
4 register sheet to the clerk of the county within which the purchaser  
5 resides.

6 (cf: P.L.2002, c.130, s.6)

7

8       2. N.J.S.2C:58-3 is amended to read as follows:

9       2C:58-3. Purchase of Firearms.

10      a. Permit to purchase a handgun. No person shall sell, give,  
11 transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of, nor receive, purchase, or  
12 otherwise acquire a handgun unless the purchaser, assignee, donee,  
13 receiver or holder is licensed as a dealer under this chapter or has  
14 first secured a permit to purchase a handgun as provided by this  
15 section.

16      b. Firearms purchaser identification card. No person shall sell,  
17 give, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of nor receive, purchase  
18 or otherwise acquire an antique cannon or a rifle or shotgun, other  
19 than an antique rifle or shotgun, unless the purchaser, assignee,  
20 donee, receiver or holder is licensed as a dealer under this chapter  
21 or possesses a valid firearms purchaser identification card, and first  
22 exhibits said card to the seller, donor, transferor or assignor, and  
23 unless the purchaser, assignee, donee, receiver or holder signs a  
24 written certification, on a form prescribed by the superintendent,  
25 which shall indicate that he presently complies with the  
26 requirements of subsection c. of this section and shall contain his  
27 name, address and firearms purchaser identification card number or  
28 dealer's registration number. The said certification shall be retained  
29 by the seller, as provided in section 2C:58-2a., or, in the case of a  
30 person who is not a dealer, it may be filed with the chief of police  
31 of the municipality in which he resides or with the superintendent.

32      c. Who may obtain. No person of good character and good  
33 repute in the community in which he lives, and who is not subject to  
34 any of the disabilities set forth in this section or other sections of  
35 this chapter, shall be denied a permit to purchase a handgun or a  
36 firearms purchaser identification card, except as hereinafter set  
37 forth. No handgun purchase permit or firearms purchaser  
38 identification card shall be issued:

39      (1) To any person who has been convicted of any crime, or a  
40 disorderly persons offense involving an act of domestic violence as  
41 defined in section 3 of P.L.1991,c.261(C.2C:25-19), whether or not  
42 armed with or possessing a weapon at the time of such offense;

43      (2) To any drug dependent person as defined in section 2 of  
44 P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-2), to any person who is confined for a  
45 mental disorder to a hospital, mental institution or sanitarium, or to  
46 any person who is presently an habitual drunkard;

1 (3) To any person who suffers from a physical defect or disease  
2 which would make it unsafe for him to handle firearms, to any  
3 person who has ever been confined for a mental disorder, or to any  
4 alcoholic unless any of the foregoing persons produces a certificate  
5 of a medical doctor or psychiatrist licensed in New Jersey, or other  
6 satisfactory proof, that he is no longer suffering from that particular  
7 disability in such a manner that would interfere with or handicap  
8 him in the handling of firearms; to any person who knowingly  
9 falsifies any information on the application form for a handgun  
10 purchase permit or firearms purchaser identification card;

11 (4) To any person under the age of 18 years for a firearms  
12 purchaser identification card and to any person under the age of 21  
13 years for a permit to purchase a handgun;

14 (5) To any person where the issuance would not be in the  
15 interest of the public health, safety or welfare;

16 (6) To any person who is subject to a restraining order issued  
17 pursuant to the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,"  
18 P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) prohibiting the person from  
19 possessing any firearm;

20 (7) To any person who as a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent  
21 for an offense which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a  
22 crime and the offense involved the unlawful use or possession of a  
23 weapon, explosive or destructive device or is enumerated in  
24 subsection d. of section 2 of P.L.1997, c.117 (C:2C:43-7.2); or

25 (8) To any person whose firearm is seized pursuant to the  
26 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261  
27 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) and whose firearm has not been returned.

28 d. Issuance. The chief of police of an organized full-time  
29 police department of the municipality where the applicant resides or  
30 the superintendent, in all other cases, shall upon application, issue  
31 to any person qualified under the provisions of subsection c. of this  
32 section a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms purchaser  
33 identification card.

34 Any person aggrieved by the denial of a permit or identification  
35 card may request a hearing in the Superior Court of the county in  
36 which he resides if he is a resident of New Jersey or in the Superior  
37 Court of the county in which his application was filed if he is a  
38 nonresident. The request for a hearing shall be made in writing  
39 within 30 days of the denial of the application for a permit or  
40 identification card. The applicant shall serve a copy of his request  
41 for a hearing upon the chief of police of the municipality in which  
42 he resides, if he is a resident of New Jersey, and upon the  
43 superintendent in all cases. The hearing shall be held and a record  
44 made thereof within 30 days of the receipt of the application for  
45 such hearing by the judge of the Superior Court. No formal  
46 pleading and no filing fee shall be required as a preliminary to such

1 hearing. Appeals from the results of such hearing shall be in  
2 accordance with law.

3 e. Applications. Applications for permits to purchase a  
4 handgun and for firearms purchaser identification cards shall be in  
5 the form prescribed by the superintendent and shall set forth the  
6 name, residence, place of business, age, date of birth, occupation,  
7 sex and physical description, including distinguishing physical  
8 characteristics, if any, of the applicant, and shall state whether the  
9 applicant is a citizen, whether he is an alcoholic, habitual drunkard,  
10 drug dependent person as defined in section 2 of P.L.1970, c.226  
11 (C.24:21-2), whether he has ever been confined or committed to a  
12 mental institution or hospital for treatment or observation of a  
13 mental or psychiatric condition on a temporary, interim or  
14 permanent basis, giving the name and location of the institution or  
15 hospital and the dates of such confinement or commitment, whether  
16 he has been attended, treated or observed by any doctor or  
17 psychiatrist or at any hospital or mental institution on an inpatient  
18 or outpatient basis for any mental or psychiatric condition, giving  
19 the name and location of the doctor, psychiatrist, hospital or  
20 institution and the dates of such occurrence, whether he presently or  
21 ever has been a member of any organization which advocates or  
22 approves the commission of acts of force and violence to overthrow  
23 the Government of the United States or of this State, or which seeks  
24 to deny others their rights under the Constitution of either the  
25 United States or the State of New Jersey, whether he has ever been  
26 convicted of a crime or disorderly persons offense, whether the  
27 person is subject to a restraining order issued pursuant to the  
28 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261  
29 (C.2C:25-17 et. seq.) prohibiting the person from possessing any  
30 firearm, and such other information as the superintendent shall  
31 deem necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter. For the  
32 purpose of complying with this subsection, the applicant shall  
33 waive any statutory or other right of confidentiality relating to  
34 institutional confinement. The application shall be signed by the  
35 applicant and shall contain as references the names and addresses of  
36 two reputable citizens personally acquainted with him.

37 Application blanks shall be obtainable from the superintendent,  
38 from any other officer authorized to grant such permit or  
39 identification card, and from licensed retail dealers.

40 The chief police officer or the superintendent shall obtain the  
41 fingerprints of the applicant and shall have them compared with any  
42 and all records of fingerprints in the municipality and county in  
43 which the applicant resides and also the records of the State Bureau  
44 of Identification and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, provided  
45 that an applicant for a handgun purchase permit who possesses a  
46 valid firearms purchaser identification card, or who has previously  
47 obtained a handgun purchase permit from the same licensing

1 authority for which he was previously fingerprinted, and who  
2 provides other reasonably satisfactory proof of his identity, need not  
3 be fingerprinted again; however, the chief police officer or the  
4 superintendent shall proceed to investigate the application to  
5 determine whether or not the applicant has become subject to any of  
6 the disabilities set forth in this chapter.

7 f. Granting of permit or identification card; fee; term; renewal;  
8 revocation. The application for the permit to purchase a handgun  
9 together with a fee of ~~[\$2.00]~~ \$2, or the application for the firearms  
10 purchaser identification card together with a fee of ~~[\$5.00]~~ \$5,  
11 shall be delivered or forwarded to the licensing authority who shall  
12 investigate the same and, unless good cause for the denial thereof  
13 appears, shall grant the permit or the identification card, or both, if  
14 application has been made therefor, within 30 days from the date of  
15 receipt of the application for residents of this State and within 45  
16 days for nonresident applicants. A permit to purchase a handgun  
17 shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of issuance and  
18 may be renewed by the issuing authority for good cause for an  
19 additional 90 days. A firearms purchaser identification card shall  
20 be valid until such time as the holder becomes subject to any of the  
21 disabilities set forth in subsection c. of this section, whereupon the  
22 card shall be void and shall be returned within five days by the  
23 holder to the superintendent, who shall then advise the licensing  
24 authority. Failure of the holder to return the firearms purchaser  
25 identification card to the superintendent within the said five days  
26 shall be an offense under section 2C:39-10a. Any firearms  
27 purchaser identification card may be revoked by the Superior Court  
28 of the county wherein the card was issued, after hearing upon  
29 notice, upon a finding that the holder thereof no longer qualifies for  
30 the issuance of such permit. The county prosecutor of any county,  
31 the chief police officer of any municipality or any citizen may apply  
32 to such court at any time for the revocation of such card.

33 There shall be no conditions or requirements added to the form  
34 or content of the application, or required by the licensing authority  
35 for the issuance of a permit or identification card, other than those  
36 that are specifically set forth in this chapter.

37 g. Disposition of fees. All fees for permits shall be paid to the  
38 State Treasury if the permit is issued by the superintendent, to the  
39 municipality if issued by the chief of police, and to the county  
40 treasurer if issued by the judge of the Superior Court.

41 h. Form of permit; quadruplicate; disposition of copies. The  
42 permit shall be in the form prescribed by the superintendent and  
43 shall be issued to the applicant in quadruplicate. Prior to the time  
44 he receives the handgun from the seller, the applicant shall deliver  
45 to the seller the permit in quadruplicate and the seller shall  
46 complete all of the information required on the form. Within five  
47 days of the date of the sale, the seller shall forward the original

1 copy to the superintendent and the second copy to the chief of  
2 police of the municipality in which the purchaser resides, except  
3 that in a municipality having no chief of police, such copy shall be  
4 forwarded to the superintendent. The third copy shall then be  
5 returned to the purchaser with the pistol or revolver and the fourth  
6 copy shall be kept by the seller as a permanent record.

7 i. Restriction on number of firearms person may purchase.  
8 Only one handgun shall be purchased or delivered on each permit [,  
9 but a] and no more than one handgun shall be purchased in any  
10 calendar month, but this limitation shall not apply to:

11 (1) a federal, State or local law enforcement officer or agency  
12 purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance  
13 of their law enforcement duties;

14 (2) a collector of handguns as curios or relics as defined in Title  
15 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who has in his  
16 possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by  
17 the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;  
18 or

19 (3) transfers of handguns between licensed retail dealers.

20 A person shall not be restricted as to the number of rifles or  
21 shotguns he may purchase, provided he possesses a valid firearms  
22 purchaser identification card and provided further that he signs the  
23 certification required in subsection b. of this section for each  
24 transaction.

25 j. Firearms passing to heirs or legatees. Notwithstanding any  
26 other provision of this section concerning the transfer, receipt or  
27 acquisition of a firearm, a permit to purchase or a firearms  
28 purchaser identification card shall not be required for the passing of  
29 a firearm upon the death of an owner thereof to his heir or legatee,  
30 whether the same be by testamentary bequest or by the laws of  
31 intestacy. The person who shall so receive, or acquire said firearm  
32 shall, however, be subject to all other provisions of this chapter. If  
33 the heir or legatee of such firearm does not qualify to possess or  
34 carry it, he may retain ownership of the firearm for the purpose of  
35 sale for a period not exceeding 180 days, or for such further limited  
36 period as may be approved by the chief law enforcement officer of  
37 the municipality in which the heir or legatee resides or the  
38 superintendent, provided that such firearm is in the custody of the  
39 chief law enforcement officer of the municipality or the  
40 superintendent during such period.

41 k. Sawed-off shotguns. Nothing in this section shall be  
42 construed to authorize the purchase or possession of any sawed-off  
43 shotgun.

44 l. Nothing in this section and in N.J.S.2C:58-2 shall apply to  
45 the sale or purchase of a visual distress signalling device approved  
46 by the United States Coast Guard, solely for possession on a private  
47 or commercial aircraft or any boat; provided, however, that no

1 person under the age of 18 years shall purchase nor shall any person  
2 sell to a person under the age of 18 years such a visual distress  
3 signalling device.  
4 (cf: P.L.2003, c.277, s.4)

5  
6 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fifth month  
7 following enactment.

8  
9  
10 *Sponsors* STATEMENT  
11

12  
13 This bill regulates the sale and purchase of handguns by  
14 prohibiting a person from purchasing more than one handgun in a  
15 calendar month.

16 Under the provisions of the bill, the holder of a handgun  
17 purchaser permit may buy only one gun in a calendar month. The  
18 bill also prohibits licensed retail firearms dealers from knowingly  
19 delivering more than one handgun to any particular person in a  
20 calendar month.

21 A buyer or seller who violates the provisions of the bill would be  
22 guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. Fourth degree crimes are  
23 punishable by imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to  
24 \$10,000, or both.

25 This limitation does not apply to law enforcement agencies and  
26 officers purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual  
27 performance of their law enforcement duties.

28 Also exempt from the one-gun-a- month limitation are collectors  
29 of firearms as curios or relics as defined in Title 18, United States  
30 Code, section 921 (a) (13) who have in their possession a valid  
31 Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the Bureau of  
32 Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The limitation also  
33 does not apply to transfers of handguns between licensed retail  
34 dealers.

# ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 339**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 3, 2008

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 339.

As amended, Assembly Bill No. 339 regulates the sale and purchase of handguns by prohibiting a person from purchasing more than one handgun within a 30-day period.

Under the provisions of the amended bill, the holder of a handgun purchaser permit may buy only one gun within a 30-day period. The amended bill also prohibits licensed retail firearms dealers from knowingly delivering more than one handgun to any particular person within a 30-day period. As introduced, the bill would have prohibited more than one purchase or delivery in a calendar month.

A buyer or seller who violates the provisions of the amended bill would be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. Fourth degree crimes are punishable by imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

This limitation does not apply to federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies and officers purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance of their law enforcement duties. It is the committee's understanding that local law enforcement agencies and officers includes county agencies and officers.

Also exempt from the one-gun-a-month limitation are collectors of firearms as curios or relics as defined in Title 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who have in their possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The limitation also does not apply to transfers of handguns between licensed retail dealers.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2008-2009 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- (1) prohibit the purchase and sale of a handgun to one within a 30-day period, rather than one in a calendar month; and
- (2) make technical corrections.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS'  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 339**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 8, 2008

The Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 339 (1R).

This bill regulates the sale and purchase of handguns by prohibiting a person from purchasing more than one handgun within a 30-day period.

Under the provisions of the bill, the holder of a handgun purchaser permit may buy only one gun within a 30-day period. The bill also prohibits licensed retail firearms dealers from knowingly delivering more than one handgun to any particular person within a 30-day period.

A buyer or seller who violates the provisions of the amended bill would be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. Fourth degree crimes are punishable by imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

This limitation does not apply to federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies and officers purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance of their law enforcement duties. It is the committee's understanding that local law enforcement agencies and officers includes county agencies and officers.

Also exempt from the one-gun-a-month limitation are collectors of firearms as curios or relics as defined in Title 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who have in their possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The limitation also does not apply to transfers of handguns between licensed retail dealers.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1774.



# **SENATE, No. 1774**

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

### **213th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2008

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex and Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Redd, Whelan and Weinberg**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits individuals from purchasing more than one handgun in a calendar month.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2009)**

1 AN ACT concerning handgun sales and purchases and amending  
2 N.J.S.2C:58-2 and N.J.S.2C:58-3.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. N.J.S.2C:58-2 is amended to read as follows:

8 2C:58-2. a. Licensing of retail dealers and their employees. No  
9 retail dealer of firearms nor any employee of a retail dealer shall  
10 sell or expose for sale, or possess with the intent of selling, any  
11 firearm unless licensed to do so as hereinafter provided. The  
12 superintendent shall prescribe standards and qualifications for retail  
13 dealers of firearms and their employees for the protection of the  
14 public safety, health and welfare.

15 Applications shall be made in the form prescribed by the  
16 superintendent, accompanied by a fee of **[\$50.00]** \$50 payable to  
17 the superintendent, and shall be made to a judge of the Superior  
18 Court in the county where the applicant maintains his place of  
19 business. The judge shall grant a license to an applicant if he finds  
20 that the applicant meets the standards and qualifications established  
21 by the superintendent and that the applicant can be permitted to  
22 engage in business as a retail dealer of firearms or employee thereof  
23 without any danger to the public safety, health and welfare. Each  
24 license shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of  
25 issuance, and shall authorize the holder to sell firearms at retail in a  
26 specified municipality.

27 In addition, every retail dealer shall pay a fee of **[\$5.00]** \$5 for  
28 each employee actively engaged in the sale or purchase of firearms.  
29 The superintendent shall issue a license for each employee for  
30 whom said fee has been paid, which license shall be valid for so  
31 long as the employee remains in the employ of said retail dealer.

32 No license shall be granted to any retail dealer under the age of  
33 21 years or to any employee of a retail dealer under the age of 18 or  
34 to any person who could not qualify to obtain a permit to purchase a  
35 handgun or a firearms purchaser identification card, or to any  
36 corporation, partnership or other business organization in which the  
37 actual or equitable controlling interest is held or possessed by such  
38 an ineligible person.

39 All licenses shall be granted subject to the following conditions,  
40 for breach of any of which the license shall be subject to revocation  
41 on the application of any law enforcement officer and after notice  
42 and hearing by the issuing court:

43 (1) The business shall be carried on only in the building or  
44 buildings designated in the license, provided that repairs may be  
45 made by the dealer or his employees outside of such premises.

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 (2) The license or a copy certified by the issuing authority shall  
2 be displayed at all times in a conspicuous place on the business  
3 premises where it can be easily read.

4 (3) No firearm or imitation thereof shall be placed in any  
5 window or in any other part of the premises where it can be readily  
6 seen from the outside.

7 (4) No rifle or shotgun, except antique rifles or shotguns, shall  
8 be delivered to any person unless such person possesses and  
9 exhibits a valid firearms purchaser identification card and furnishes  
10 the seller, on the form prescribed by the superintendent, a  
11 certification signed by him setting forth his name, permanent  
12 address, firearms purchaser identification card number and such  
13 other information as the superintendent may by rule or regulation  
14 require. The certification shall be retained by the dealer and shall  
15 be made available for inspection by any law enforcement officer at  
16 any reasonable time.

17 (5) No handgun shall be delivered to any person unless:

18 (a) Such person possesses and exhibits a valid permit to  
19 purchase a firearm and at least seven days have elapsed since the  
20 date of application for the permit;

21 (b) The person is personally known to the seller or presents  
22 evidence of his identity;

23 (c) The handgun is unloaded and securely wrapped;

24 (d) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (e) of this  
25 paragraph, the handgun is accompanied by a trigger lock or a locked  
26 case, gun box, container or other secure facility; provided, however,  
27 this provision shall not apply to antique handguns. The exemption  
28 afforded under this subparagraph for antique handguns shall be  
29 narrowly construed, limited solely to the requirements set forth  
30 herein and shall not be deemed to afford or authorize any other  
31 exemption from the regulatory provisions governing firearms set  
32 forth in chapter 39 and chapter 58 of Title 2C of the New Jersey  
33 Statutes; and

34 (e) On and after the first day of the sixth month following the  
35 date on which the list of personalized handguns is prepared and  
36 delivered pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2002, c.130 (C.2C:58-2.4),  
37 the handgun is identified as a personalized handgun and included on  
38 that list or is an antique handgun. The provisions of subparagraph  
39 (d) of this section shall not apply to the delivery of a personalized  
40 handgun.

41 (6) The dealer shall keep a true record of every handgun sold,  
42 given or otherwise delivered or disposed of, in accordance with the  
43 provisions of subsections b. through e. of this section and the record  
44 shall note whether a trigger lock, locked case, gun box, container or  
45 other secure facility was delivered along with the handgun.

46 (7) A dealer shall not knowingly deliver more than one handgun  
47 to any person within any 30-day period. This limitation shall not  
48 apply to:

1       (a) a federal, State, or local law enforcement officer or agency  
2 purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance  
3 of their law enforcement duties;

4       (b) a collector of handguns as curios or relics as defined in Title  
5 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who has in his  
6 possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by  
7 the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;  
8 or

9       (c) transfers of handguns between licensed retail dealers.

10       b. Records. Every person engaged in the retail business of  
11 selling, leasing or otherwise transferring a handgun, as a retail  
12 dealer or otherwise, shall keep a register in which shall be entered  
13 the time of the sale, lease or other transfer, the date thereof, the  
14 name, age, date of birth, complexion, occupation, residence and a  
15 physical description including distinguishing physical  
16 characteristics, if any, of the purchaser, lessee or transferee, the  
17 name and permanent home address of the person making the sale,  
18 lease or transfer, the place of the transaction, and the make, model,  
19 manufacturer's number, caliber and other marks of identification on  
20 such handgun and such other information as the superintendent  
21 shall deem necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter.  
22 The register shall be retained by the dealer and shall be made  
23 available at all reasonable hours for inspection by any law  
24 enforcement officer.

25       c. Forms of register. The superintendent shall prepare the form  
26 of the register as described in subsection b. of this section and  
27 furnish the same in triplicate to each person licensed to be engaged  
28 in the business of selling, leasing or otherwise transferring firearms.

29       d. Signatures in register. The purchaser, lessee or transferee of  
30 any handgun shall sign, and the dealer shall require him to sign his  
31 name to the register, in triplicate, and the person making the sale,  
32 lease or transfer shall affix his name, in triplicate, as a witness to  
33 the signature. The signatures shall constitute a representation of the  
34 accuracy of the information contained in the register.

35       e. Copies of register entries; delivery to chief of police or  
36 county clerk. Within five days of the date of the sale, assignment or  
37 transfer, the dealer shall deliver or mail by certified mail, return  
38 receipt requested, legible copies of the register forms to the office  
39 of the chief of police of the municipality in which the purchaser  
40 resides, or to the office of the captain of the precinct of the  
41 municipality in which the purchaser resides, and to the  
42 superintendent. If hand delivered a receipt shall be given to the  
43 dealer therefor.

44       Where a sale, assignment or transfer is made to a purchaser who  
45 resides in a municipality having no chief of police, the dealer shall,  
46 within five days of the transaction, mail a duplicate copy of the

1 register sheet to the clerk of the county within which the purchaser  
2 resides.

3 (cf: P.L.2002, c.130, s.6)

4

5 2. N.J.S.2C:58-3 is amended to read as follows:

6 2C:58-3. Purchase of Firearms.

7 a. Permit to purchase a handgun. No person shall sell, give,  
8 transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of, nor receive, purchase, or  
9 otherwise acquire a handgun unless the purchaser, assignee, donee,  
10 receiver or holder is licensed as a dealer under this chapter or has  
11 first secured a permit to purchase a handgun as provided by this  
12 section.

13 b. Firearms purchaser identification card. No person shall sell,  
14 give, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of nor receive, purchase  
15 or otherwise acquire an antique cannon or a rifle or shotgun, other  
16 than an antique rifle or shotgun, unless the purchaser, assignee,  
17 donee, receiver or holder is licensed as a dealer under this chapter  
18 or possesses a valid firearms purchaser identification card, and first  
19 exhibits said card to the seller, donor, transferor or assignor, and  
20 unless the purchaser, assignee, donee, receiver or holder signs a  
21 written certification, on a form prescribed by the superintendent,  
22 which shall indicate that he presently complies with the  
23 requirements of subsection c. of this section and shall contain his  
24 name, address and firearms purchaser identification card number or  
25 dealer's registration number. The said certification shall be retained  
26 by the seller, as provided in section 2C:58-2a. paragraph (4) of  
27 subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:58-2, or, in the case of a person who is  
28 not a dealer, it may be filed with the chief of police of the  
29 municipality in which he resides or with the superintendent.

30 c. Who may obtain. No person of good character and good  
31 repute in the community in which he lives, and who is not subject to  
32 any of the disabilities set forth in this section or other sections of  
33 this chapter, shall be denied a permit to purchase a handgun or a  
34 firearms purchaser identification card, except as hereinafter set  
35 forth. No handgun purchase permit or firearms purchaser  
36 identification card shall be issued:

37 (1) To any person who has been convicted of any crime, or a  
38 disorderly persons offense involving an act of domestic violence as  
39 defined in section 3 of P.L.1991,c.261(C.2C:25-19), whether or not  
40 armed with or possessing a weapon at the time of such offense;

41 (2) To any drug dependent person as defined in section 2 of  
42 P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-2), to any person who is confined for a  
43 mental disorder to a hospital, mental institution or sanitarium, or to  
44 any person who is presently an habitual drunkard;

45 (3) To any person who suffers from a physical defect or disease  
46 which would make it unsafe for him to handle firearms, to any  
47 person who has ever been confined for a mental disorder, or to any  
48 alcoholic unless any of the foregoing persons produces a certificate

1 of a medical doctor or psychiatrist licensed in New Jersey, or other  
2 satisfactory proof, that he is no longer suffering from that particular  
3 disability in such a manner that would interfere with or handicap  
4 him in the handling of firearms; to any person who knowingly  
5 falsifies any information on the application form for a handgun  
6 purchase permit or firearms purchaser identification card;

7 (4) To any person under the age of 18 years for a firearms  
8 purchaser identification card and to any person under the age of 21  
9 years for a permit to purchase a handgun;

10 (5) To any person where the issuance would not be in the  
11 interest of the public health, safety or welfare;

12 (6) To any person who is subject to a restraining order issued  
13 pursuant to the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,"  
14 P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) prohibiting the person from  
15 possessing any firearm;

16 (7) To any person who as a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent  
17 for an offense which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a  
18 crime and the offense involved the unlawful use or possession of a  
19 weapon, explosive or destructive device or is enumerated in  
20 subsection d. of section 2 of P.L.1997, c.117 (C.2C:43-7.2); or

21 (8) To any person whose firearm is seized pursuant to the  
22 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261  
23 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) and whose firearm has not been returned.

24 d. Issuance. The chief of police of an organized full-time  
25 police department of the municipality where the applicant resides or  
26 the superintendent, in all other cases, shall upon application, issue  
27 to any person qualified under the provisions of subsection c. of this  
28 section a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms purchaser  
29 identification card.

30 Any person aggrieved by the denial of a permit or identification  
31 card may request a hearing in the Superior Court of the county in  
32 which he resides if he is a resident of New Jersey or in the Superior  
33 Court of the county in which his application was filed if he is a  
34 nonresident. The request for a hearing shall be made in writing  
35 within 30 days of the denial of the application for a permit or  
36 identification card. The applicant shall serve a copy of his request  
37 for a hearing upon the chief of police of the municipality in which  
38 he resides, if he is a resident of New Jersey, and upon the  
39 superintendent in all cases. The hearing shall be held and a record  
40 made thereof within 30 days of the receipt of the application for  
41 such hearing by the judge of the Superior Court. No formal  
42 pleading and no filing fee shall be required as a preliminary to such  
43 hearing. Appeals from the results of such hearing shall be in  
44 accordance with law.

45 e. Applications. Applications for permits to purchase a  
46 handgun and for firearms purchaser identification cards shall be in  
47 the form prescribed by the superintendent and shall set forth the  
48 name, residence, place of business, age, date of birth, occupation,

1 sex and physical description, including distinguishing physical  
2 characteristics, if any, of the applicant, and shall state whether the  
3 applicant is a citizen, whether he is an alcoholic, habitual drunkard,  
4 drug dependent person as defined in section 2 of P.L.1970, c.226  
5 (C.24:21-2), whether he has ever been confined or committed to a  
6 mental institution or hospital for treatment or observation of a  
7 mental or psychiatric condition on a temporary, interim or  
8 permanent basis, giving the name and location of the institution or  
9 hospital and the dates of such confinement or commitment, whether  
10 he has been attended, treated or observed by any doctor or  
11 psychiatrist or at any hospital or mental institution on an inpatient  
12 or outpatient basis for any mental or psychiatric condition, giving  
13 the name and location of the doctor, psychiatrist, hospital or  
14 institution and the dates of such occurrence, whether he presently or  
15 ever has been a member of any organization which advocates or  
16 approves the commission of acts of force and violence to overthrow  
17 the Government of the United States or of this State, or which seeks  
18 to deny others their rights under the Constitution of either the  
19 United States or the State of New Jersey, whether he has ever been  
20 convicted of a crime or disorderly persons offense, whether the  
21 person is subject to a restraining order issued pursuant to the  
22 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261  
23 (C.2C:25-17 et. seq.) prohibiting the person from possessing any  
24 firearm, and such other information as the superintendent shall  
25 deem necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter. For the  
26 purpose of complying with this subsection, the applicant shall  
27 waive any statutory or other right of confidentiality relating to  
28 institutional confinement. The application shall be signed by the  
29 applicant and shall contain as references the names and addresses of  
30 two reputable citizens personally acquainted with him.

31 Application blanks shall be obtainable from the superintendent,  
32 from any other officer authorized to grant such permit or  
33 identification card, and from licensed retail dealers.

34 The chief police officer or the superintendent shall obtain the  
35 fingerprints of the applicant and shall have them compared with any  
36 and all records of fingerprints in the municipality and county in  
37 which the applicant resides and also the records of the State Bureau  
38 of Identification and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, provided  
39 that an applicant for a handgun purchase permit who possesses a  
40 valid firearms purchaser identification card, or who has previously  
41 obtained a handgun purchase permit from the same licensing  
42 authority for which he was previously fingerprinted, and who  
43 provides other reasonably satisfactory proof of his identity, need not  
44 be fingerprinted again; however, the chief police officer or the  
45 superintendent shall proceed to investigate the application to  
46 determine whether or not the applicant has become subject to any of  
47 the disabilities set forth in this chapter.

1 f. Granting of permit or identification card; fee; term; renewal;  
2 revocation. The application for the permit to purchase a handgun  
3 together with a fee of ~~【\$2.00】~~ \$2, or the application for the firearms  
4 purchaser identification card together with a fee of ~~【\$5.00】~~ \$5,  
5 shall be delivered or forwarded to the licensing authority who shall  
6 investigate the same and, unless good cause for the denial thereof  
7 appears, shall grant the permit or the identification card, or both, if  
8 application has been made therefor, within 30 days from the date of  
9 receipt of the application for residents of this State and within 45  
10 days for nonresident applicants. A permit to purchase a handgun  
11 shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of issuance and  
12 may be renewed by the issuing authority for good cause for an  
13 additional 90 days. A firearms purchaser identification card shall  
14 be valid until such time as the holder becomes subject to any of the  
15 disabilities set forth in subsection c. of this section, whereupon the  
16 card shall be void and shall be returned within five days by the  
17 holder to the superintendent, who shall then advise the licensing  
18 authority. Failure of the holder to return the firearms purchaser  
19 identification card to the superintendent within the said five days  
20 shall be an offense under ~~【section 2C:39-10a】~~ subsection a. of  
21 N.J.S.2C:39-10. Any firearms purchaser identification card may be  
22 revoked by the Superior Court of the county wherein the card was  
23 issued, after hearing upon notice, upon a finding that the holder  
24 thereof no longer qualifies for the issuance of such permit. The  
25 county prosecutor of any county, the chief police officer of any  
26 municipality or any citizen may apply to such court at any time for  
27 the revocation of such card.

28 There shall be no conditions or requirements added to the form  
29 or content of the application, or required by the licensing authority  
30 for the issuance of a permit or identification card, other than those  
31 that are specifically set forth in this chapter.

32 g. Disposition of fees. All fees for permits shall be paid to the  
33 State Treasury if the permit is issued by the superintendent, to the  
34 municipality if issued by the chief of police, and to the county  
35 treasurer if issued by the judge of the Superior Court.

36 h. Form of permit; quadruplicate; disposition of copies. The  
37 permit shall be in the form prescribed by the superintendent and  
38 shall be issued to the applicant in quadruplicate. Prior to the time  
39 he receives the handgun from the seller, the applicant shall deliver  
40 to the seller the permit in quadruplicate and the seller shall  
41 complete all of the information required on the form. Within five  
42 days of the date of the sale, the seller shall forward the original  
43 copy to the superintendent and the second copy to the chief of  
44 police of the municipality in which the purchaser resides, except  
45 that in a municipality having no chief of police, such copy shall be  
46 forwarded to the superintendent. The third copy shall then be  
47 returned to the purchaser with the pistol or revolver and the fourth  
48 copy shall be kept by the seller as a permanent record.



1 i. Restriction on number of firearms person may purchase.  
2 Only one handgun shall be purchased or delivered on each permit [,  
3 but a] and no more than one handgun shall be purchased within any  
4 30-day period, but this limitation shall not apply to:

5 (1) a federal, State or local law enforcement officer or agency  
6 purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance  
7 of their law enforcement duties;

8 (2) a collector of handguns as curios or relics as defined in Title  
9 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who has in his  
10 possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by  
11 the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;  
12 or

13 (3) transfers of handguns between licensed retail dealers.

14 A person shall not be restricted as to the number of rifles or  
15 shotguns he may purchase, provided he possesses a valid firearms  
16 purchaser identification card and provided further that he signs the  
17 certification required in subsection b. of this section for each  
18 transaction.

19 j. Firearms passing to heirs or legatees. Notwithstanding any  
20 other provision of this section concerning the transfer, receipt or  
21 acquisition of a firearm, a permit to purchase or a firearms  
22 purchaser identification card shall not be required for the passing of  
23 a firearm upon the death of an owner thereof to his heir or legatee,  
24 whether the same be by testamentary bequest or by the laws of  
25 intestacy. The person who shall so receive, or acquire said firearm  
26 shall, however, be subject to all other provisions of this chapter. If  
27 the heir or legatee of such firearm does not qualify to possess or  
28 carry it, he may retain ownership of the firearm for the purpose of  
29 sale for a period not exceeding 180 days, or for such further limited  
30 period as may be approved by the chief law enforcement officer of  
31 the municipality in which the heir or legatee resides or the  
32 superintendent, provided that such firearm is in the custody of the  
33 chief law enforcement officer of the municipality or the  
34 superintendent during such period.

35 k. Sawed-off shotguns. Nothing in this section shall be  
36 construed to authorize the purchase or possession of any sawed-off  
37 shotgun.

38 l. Nothing in this section and in N.J.S.2C:58-2 shall apply to  
39 the sale or purchase of a visual distress signalling device approved  
40 by the United States Coast Guard, solely for possession on a private  
41 or commercial aircraft or any boat; provided, however, that no  
42 person under the age of 18 years shall purchase nor shall any person  
43 sell to a person under the age of 18 years such a visual distress  
44 signalling device.

45 (cf: P.L.2003, c.277, s.4)

46  
47 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fifth month  
48 following enactment.

1                    *Sponsor's*        STATEMENT

2

3            This bill regulates the sale and purchase of handguns by  
4 prohibiting a person from purchasing more than one handgun within  
5 a 30-day period.

6            Under the provisions of the bill, the holder of a handgun  
7 purchaser permit may buy only one gun within a 30-day period.  
8 The bill also prohibits licensed retail firearms dealers from  
9 knowingly delivering more than one handgun to any particular  
10 person within a 30-day period.

11           A buyer or seller who violates the provisions of the amended bill  
12 would be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. Fourth degree  
13 crimes are punishable by imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine  
14 of up to \$10,000, or both.

15           This limitation does not apply to federal, State, or local law  
16 enforcement agencies and officers purchasing handguns for use by  
17 officers in the actual performance of their law enforcement duties.  
18 It is the committee's understanding that local law enforcement  
19 agencies and officers includes county agencies and officers.

20           Also exempt from the one-gun-a-month limitation are collectors  
21 of firearms as curios or relics as defined in Title 18, United States  
22 Code, section 921 (a) (13) who have in their possession a valid  
23 Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the Bureau of  
24 Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The limitation also  
25 does not apply to transfers of handguns between licensed retail  
26 dealers.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS'  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1774**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 8, 2008

The Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1774.

This bill regulates the sale and purchase of handguns by prohibiting a person from purchasing more than one handgun within a 30-day period.

Under the provisions of the bill, the holder of a handgun purchaser permit may buy only one gun within a 30-day period. The bill also prohibits licensed retail firearms dealers from knowingly delivering more than one handgun to any particular person within a 30-day period.

A buyer or seller who violates the provisions of the amended bill would be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. Fourth degree crimes are punishable by imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

This limitation does not apply to federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies and officers purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance of their law enforcement duties. It is the committee's understanding that local law enforcement agencies and officers includes county agencies and officers.

Also exempt from the one-gun-a-month limitation are collectors of firearms as curios or relics as defined in Title 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who have in their possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The limitation also does not apply to transfers of handguns between licensed retail dealers.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 339 (1R).

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Governor**For Immediate Release:**  
**Date:** August 6, 2009**For More Information:**  
Robert Corrales**Phone:** 609-777-2600

## Governor Corzine Signs One-Gun-A-Month Handgun Legislation

### New Jersey fourth state to initiate purchase limitation

TRENTON – In a move to prevent “straw” gun purchases and curtail the number of weapons in the hands of criminals, Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed aggressive firearm legislation limiting the sale and purchase of handguns in New Jersey. The bill, A-339 / S-1774, sets a “one-gun-a-month” limitation on the purchase of handguns to one sales transaction per individual in a 30-day period.

“Violent crime and the proliferation of handguns is an epidemic being fought in every state in our nation,” Governor Corzine said. “While we are winning some important battles against violent crime, we must remain aggressive in combating illegal possession, use and trafficking of firearms in New Jersey. The bill that I am signing into law is aimed at cutting off the supply of weapons to career criminals and protecting the rights of our law-abiding citizens.”

New Jersey now joins California, Maryland and Virginia, as the only states that currently limit the number of handguns that may be purchased at one time within a certain calendar period.

Under the New Jersey legislation, licensed retail firearms dealers are prohibited from selling more than one handgun within a calendar-month period to a person with a handgun purchase permit. A buyer or seller who violates the “one-gun-a-month” statute would be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree, punishable by imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

“This is not about penalizing law abiding gun owners. It’s about stemming the flow of illegal guns on our streets, keeping them out of the hands of gang members and drug dealers, and protecting innocent children and families,” said Senate President Richard J. Codey (D-Essex).

Primary sponsors of A-339 / S-1774 are Senators Sandra B. Cunningham (D-Hudson) and M. Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex, Union) and Assemblywoman Joan M. Quigley (D-Bergen, Hudson).

“Regularly in the news we hear stories of violent crimes committed by people who have obtained handguns illegally,” said Senator Cunningham, D-Hudson. “It’s alarming to report that most of the deadly gunfire comes from unlicensed owners, carrying unregistered weapons. Through the enactment of this new law, we will send a clear message to criminals that we will not allow illegal gun use to run our streets.”

“This legislation is about reducing gun violence and saving lives,” said Senator Ruiz, D-Essex and Union. “The effects of illegal gun violence and the wounds it causes are far-reaching in that they not only touch victims, but also families and communities as a whole. This law is a significant step in the right direction toward reducing the number of illegal, unlicensed guns on the streets and increasing safety for the people of this State.”

“There’s no good reason why anyone would need to purchase large quantities of handguns all at once,” said Assemblywoman Joan Quigley (D-Hudson). “Providing criminals and gang leaders one-stop shopping to outfit themselves with weapons is the obvious implication of bulk handgun purchasing. It defies logic to think anyone would need to purchase two, five, or 20 handguns in a short period of time. Restricting handgun purchases to one a month will help control the spread of guns that wind up on the street and in the hands of criminals.”

Earlier this week, Governor Corzine and Attorney General Anne Milgram announced a dramatic decline in homicides in New Jersey due in part to a statewide violence reduction initiative that has resulted in more than 4,200 arrests over a 14-month time period.

In July, Governor Corzine supported the defeat of legislation in the United States Senate that would have permitted gun owners with concealed-carry

permits issued by states with lax laws to carry concealed firearms in other states with much stricter laws. New Jersey has among the strictest concealed-carry laws in the nation.

In addition, Governor Corzine and Attorney General Anne Milgram announced last month the outcome of a joint investigative team of State Police detectives and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agents aimed at tracking down and prosecuting illegal gun traffickers, resulting eleven grand jury indictments of twelve individuals.

"This new legislation is not an anti-gun measure: it is an anti-violence measure," added Governor Corzine. "We must not rest, we must not equivocate, while the threat of gun violence remains on New Jersey streets."

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