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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH 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. VAN HOLLEN 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 2013, almost 90 percent of the nearly  
2           9,000 firearm homicides in the United States oc-  
3           curred with a handgun.

4           (2) Recently published research by top national  
5           experts, notably on Missouri and Connecticut hand-  
6           gun purchaser licensing laws, have estimated that  
7           Missouri’s repeal of its handgun purchaser licensing  
8           law led to a 25 percent increase in firearm homicide  
9           rates while Connecticut’s adoption of its handgun  
10          purchaser licensing law led to a 40 percent decrease  
11          in firearm homicide rates.

12          (3) In States which have had effective handgun  
13          purchaser licensing laws for decades, such as Con-  
14          necticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York,  
15          the vast majority of guns traced to crimes originated  
16          in other States, which supports the need for hand-  
17          gun purchaser licensing laws in every state.

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19          In this Act, the terms “Attorney General” and  
20          “handgun” have the meanings given those terms in section  
21          921(a) of title 18, United States Code.

22 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED FOR HANDGUN LI-**  
23 **CENSING.**

24          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is author-  
25          ized to award grants to States, units of local government,

1 and Indian tribes for the development, implementation,  
2 and evaluation of handgun purchaser licensing require-  
3 ments.

4 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts ap-  
5 propriated to carry out this Act and not later than 90  
6 days after such amounts are appropriated, the Attorney  
7 General shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eli-  
8 gible applicants whose applications are approved under  
9 subsection (c) to assist such applicants in implementing  
10 and improving handgun purchaser licensing programs.

11 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
12 under this Act, a State, unit of local government, or In-  
13 dian tribe shall submit to the Attorney General an applica-  
14 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such  
15 information as the Attorney General may require, includ-  
16 ing—

17 (1) a description of the law that the applicant  
18 has enacted to require a license for any purchase of  
19 a handgun including a description of any other ex-  
20 emptions to such law; and

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

1 (d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for  
2 grants, an applicant must have in effect handgun pur-  
3 chaser licensing laws that include the following provisions:

4 (1) An individual applying for a handgun li-  
5 cense or permit must be at least 21 years old and  
6 be a national or lawful permanent resident of the  
7 United States.

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

11 (3) Such an individual must reapply for the  
12 handgun purchaser license or permit after a period  
13 no longer than five years.

14 (4) Such an individual must submit to a back-  
15 ground investigation, and a criminal history check,  
16 in connection with their application, as established  
17 by the State.

18 (5) Such an individual must submit fingerprints  
19 and photographs in connection with the application  
20 for the license or permit.

21 (6) Such an individual must provide proof that  
22 the individual is legally present and lawfully resides  
23 in the United States, including a birth certificate, or  
24 valid passport. A lawful permanent resident must  
25 provide his or her alien registration number and 90-

1 day proof of residency. A naturalized citizens must  
2 provide proof of citizenship.

3 (7) Any individual who is prohibited from pos-  
4 sessed a firearm under section 922(g) of title 18,  
5 United States Code, may not receive a license or  
6 permit.

7 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—A grantee under this Act shall  
8 use such grant to improve handgun purchaser licensing  
9 programs of that grantee.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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