

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 18

To require a background check for every firearm sale.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BELL, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CROW, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. GILLEN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HARDER of California, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HOYER, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LICCARDO, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MANNION, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MRYAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NOR-

CROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VINDMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require a background check for every firearm sale.

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 “Bipartisan Back-
 5 ground Checks Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to utilize the current back-
 8 ground checks process in the United States to ensure indi-
 9 viduals prohibited from gun purchase or possession are
 10 not able to obtain firearms.

1 **SEC. 3. FIREARMS TRANSFERS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 922 of title 18, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(aa)(1)(A) It shall be unlawful for any person who
6 is not a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or li-
7 censed dealer to transfer a firearm to any other person
8 who is not so licensed, unless a licensed importer, licensed
9 manufacturer, or licensed dealer has first taken possession
10 of the firearm for the purpose of complying with sub-
11 section (t).

12 “(B) Upon taking possession of a firearm under sub-
13 paragraph (A), a licensee shall comply with all require-
14 ments of this chapter as if the licensee were transferring
15 the firearm from the inventory of the licensee to the unli-
16 censed transferee.

17 “(C) If a transfer of a firearm described in subpara-
18 graph (A) will not be completed for any reason after a
19 licensee takes possession of the firearm (including because
20 the transfer of the firearm to, or receipt of the firearm
21 by, the transferee would violate this chapter), the return
22 of the firearm to the transferor by the licensee shall not
23 constitute the transfer of a firearm for purposes of this
24 chapter.

25 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

1 “(A) a law enforcement agency or any law en-
2 forcement officer, armed private security profes-
3 sional, or member of the Armed Forces, to the ex-
4 tent the officer, professional, or member is acting
5 within the course and scope of employment and offi-
6 cial duties;

7 “(B) a transfer or exchange (which, for pur-
8 poses of this subsection, means an in-kind transfer
9 of a firearm of the same type or value) that is a loan
10 or bona fide gift between spouses, between domestic
11 partners, between parents and their children, includ-
12 ing step-parents and their step-children, between sib-
13 lings, between aunts or uncles and their nieces or
14 nephews, or between grandparents and their grand-
15 children, if the transferor has no reason to believe
16 that the transferee will use or intends to use the
17 firearm in a crime or is prohibited from possessing
18 firearms under State or Federal law;

19 “(C) a transfer to an executor, administrator,
20 trustee, or personal representative of an estate or a
21 trust that occurs by operation of law upon the death
22 of another person;

23 “(D) a temporary transfer that is necessary to
24 prevent imminent death or great bodily harm, in-
25 cluding harm to self, family, household members, or

1 others, if the possession by the transferee lasts only
2 as long as immediately necessary to prevent the im-
3 minent death or great bodily harm, including harm
4 to self, and the harm of domestic violence, dating
5 partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, and do-
6 mestic abuse;

7 “(E) a transfer that is approved by the Attor-
8 ney General under section 5812 of the Internal Rev-
9 enue Code of 1986; or

10 “(F) a temporary transfer if the transferor has
11 no reason to believe that the transferee will use or
12 intends to use the firearm in a crime or is prohibited
13 from possessing firearms under State or Federal
14 law, and the transfer takes place and the trans-
15 feree’s possession of the firearm is exclusively—

16 “(i) at a shooting range or in a shooting
17 gallery or other area designated for the purpose
18 of target shooting;

19 “(ii) while reasonably necessary for the
20 purposes of hunting, trapping, pest control on
21 a farm or ranch, or fishing, if the transferor—

22 “(I) has no reason to believe that the
23 transferee intends to use the firearm in a
24 place where it is illegal; and

1 “(II) has reason to believe that the
2 transferee will comply with all licensing
3 and permit requirements for such hunting,
4 trapping, pest control on a farm or ranch,
5 or fishing; or

6 “(iii) while in the presence of the trans-
7 feror.

8 “(3) It shall be unlawful for a licensed importer, li-
9 censed manufacturer, or licensed dealer to transfer posses-
10 sion of, or title to, a firearm to another person who is
11 not so licensed unless the importer, manufacturer, or deal-
12 er has provided such other person with a notice of the
13 prohibition under paragraph (1), and such other person
14 has certified that such other person has been provided
15 with this notice on a form prescribed by the Attorney Gen-
16 eral.

17 “(4) The Attorney General shall make available to
18 any person licensed under this chapter both Spanish and
19 English versions of the form required for the conduct of
20 a background check under subsection (t) and this sub-
21 section, and the notice and form required under paragraph
22 (3) of this subsection.”.

23 (b) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 924(a).—Section
24 924(a)(5) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by
25 striking “(s) or (t)” and inserting “(s), (t), or (aa)”.

1 (c) RULES OF INTERPRETATION.—Nothing in this
2 Act, or any amendment made by this Act, shall be con-
3 strued to—

4 (1) authorize the establishment, directly or indi-
5 rectly, of a national firearms registry; or

6 (2) interfere with the authority of a State,
7 under section 927 of title 18, United States Code,
8 to enact a law on the same subject matter as this
9 Act.

10 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
11 subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect 180 days after
12 the date of enactment of this Act.

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