

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4251

To require the Attorney General to report certain revocation and remedial action data with respect to Federal firearm licenses and to require the Comptroller General of the United States to study the effectiveness of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in investigating and revoking the licenses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2025

Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the Attorney General to report certain revocation and remedial action data with respect to Federal firearm licenses and to require the Comptroller General of the United States to study the effectiveness of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in investigating and revoking the licenses.

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 “Protecting Americans
5 from Reckless Gun Dealers Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United
3 States Code is amended by inserting after section 925D
4 the following:

5 **“§ 925E. Annual report to Congress on license inspec-**
6 **tions.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days after the date
8 of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter,
9 the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate con-
10 gressional committees a written report on the actions un-
11 dertaken by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms,
12 and Explosives in the year covered by the report to issue
13 and revoke licenses and inspect licensees under section
14 923, that includes the following:

15 “(1) The number of inspections completed each
16 month.

17 “(2) The number of inspections that identified
18 at least 1 serious violation.

19 “(3) The number of licenses that were revoked,
20 the number of licenses that were not renewed in lieu
21 of revocation, and the number of licenses surren-
22 dered after an inspection.

23 “(4) For each licensee whose license was re-
24 voked on the basis of an inspection, the name and
25 location of the licensee, the date of revocation, and
26 any serious violation identified by the inspection.

1 “(5) For each licensee whose license was not re-
2 newed in lieu of revocation after an inspection, the
3 name and location of the licensee, the date the li-
4 cense expired, and any serious violation identified by
5 the inspection.

6 “(6) For each licensee who surrendered such a
7 license after an inspection, including a licensee who
8 discontinued business operations, the name and loca-
9 tion of the licensee, the date of surrender, and any
10 serious violation identified by the inspection.

11 “(7) The number of inspections that identified
12 at least 1 serious violation but with respect to which
13 the Attorney General did not revoke the applicable
14 license, broken down by—

15 “(A) the Attorney General’s decision not to
16 pursue revocation, further broken down by the
17 Attorney General’s reason for the decision;

18 “(B) the reversal of an initial decision of
19 the Attorney General to revoke the license after
20 a hearing held pursuant to section 923(f)(2);
21 and

22 “(C) the order of a court to reverse a rev-
23 ocation after a petition was filed for review of
24 a final agency determination.

1 “(8) The reasons of the Attorney General not
2 to pursue revocation, broken down geographically
3 based on the location of the field office of the Bu-
4 reau with responsibility for the area where the li-
5 censee involved is located.

6 “(9) The number of reports of violations and
7 warning letters issued and warning conferences held
8 by the Bureau, broken down geographically based on
9 the location of the field office of the Bureau in-
10 volved.

11 “(b) PUBLICATION ON WEBSITE.—On each date a re-
12 port required by subsection (a) is submitted, the Attorney
13 General shall cause to be published on the website of the
14 Bureau the information contained in the report.

15 “(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
16 In this section, the term ‘appropriate congressional com-
17 mittees’ means—

18 “(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
19 House of Representatives; and

20 “(2) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
21 Senate.

22 “(d) SERIOUS VIOLATION.—In this section, the term
23 ‘serious violation’ means one of the following:

24 “(1) Refusing to allow an inspection pursuant
25 to section 923(g).

1 “(2) Transferring a firearm in violation of sec-
2 tion 922(d).

3 “(3) Failing to wait 3 business days before
4 transferring a firearm pursuant to section 922(t)(1).

5 “(4) Failing to comply with any other require-
6 ment of section 922(t)(1) before transferring a fire-
7 arm.

8 “(5) Falsifying a record required to be main-
9 tained pursuant to section 923(g).

10 “(6) Failing to respond to a trace request pur-
11 suant to section 923(g)(7).

12 “(7) Transferring a firearm to another person
13 with the knowledge that the person is making a
14 straw purchase of the firearm in violation of section
15 932.

16 “(8) Failing to submit a report of multiple sales
17 or other dispositions to an unlicensed person pursu-
18 ant to section 923(g)(3).

19 “(9) Failing to report a theft or loss of a fire-
20 arm pursuant to section 923(g)(6).

21 “(10) Failing to maintain an accurate record of
22 the receipt, sale, or other disposition of a firearm
23 pursuant to section 923(g)(2).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 925D the following:

“925E. Annual report to Congress on license inspections.”.

**SEC. 3. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,
FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES TO INVESTIGATE
FEDERAL FIREARM LICENSES.**

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the operations and procedures used to issue and revoke licenses under section 923 of title 18, United States Code, and to investigate and inspect holders of such licenses, that focuses on—

(1) whether systemic failures in the issuance and revocation of the licenses have resulted in ineffective enforcement of chapter 44 of such title;

(2) the extent to which the Attorney General has exercised discretion not to pursue revocation of a license based on the putative existence of extraordinary circumstances, notwithstanding a finding by the Attorney General that a licensee willfully committed a violation that renders the license eligible for revocation;

(3) geographic variability in the enforcement of such chapter;

1 (4) the outcomes related to the revocation of li-
2 censes, including—

3 (A) the number of licensees who received a
4 notice of license revocation but whose licenses
5 were not revoked; and

6 (B) the average and median periods of
7 time from inspection to revocation of a license,
8 broken down by—

9 (i) revocations without hearing or ap-
10 peal by the licensee;

11 (ii) revocations after an administrative
12 determination without judicial review pur-
13 sued by the licensee; and

14 (iii) revocations after such a judicial
15 review; and

16 (5) the policies and practices for providing over-
17 sight of the activities of the licensees during the
18 pendency of revocation proceedings, including while
19 a licensee seeks judicial review.

20 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 1 year after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
22 of the United States shall submit a written report to Con-
23 gress on the results of the study required by subsection
24 (a).

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