

3378

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 6, 2015

Introduced by Sen. GALLIVAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to the filing of approved applications for licenses to carry, possess, repair and dispose of firearms

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 400.00 of the penal law, as
2 amended by chapter 1 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:
3 5. Filing of approved applications. [(a)] The application for any
4 license, if granted, shall be filed by the licensing officer with the
5 clerk of the county of issuance, except that in the city of New York
6 and, in the counties of Nassau and Suffolk, the licensing officer shall
7 designate the place of filing in the appropriate division, bureau or
8 unit of the police department thereof, and in the county of Suffolk the
9 county clerk is hereby authorized to transfer all records or applica-
10 tions relating to firearms to the licensing authority of that county.
11 [Except as provided in paragraphs (b) through (f) of this subdivision,
12 the name and address] THE APPLICATION AND ANY SUPPORTING RECORDS,
13 INCLUDING ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN, of any person to whom an
14 application for any license has been granted shall NOT be a public
15 record AND SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE SIX OF
16 THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW. Upon application by a licensee who has changed
17 his place of residence such records or applications shall be transferred
18 to the appropriate officer at the licensee's new place of residence. A
19 duplicate copy of such application shall be filed by the licensing offi-
20 cer in the executive department, division of state police, Albany, with-
21 in ten days after issuance of the license. The superintendent of state
22 police may designate that such application shall be transmitted to the
23 division of state police electronically. In the event the superintendent
24 of the division of state police determines that it lacks any of the
25 records required to be filed with the division, it may request that such
26 records be provided to it by the appropriate clerk, department or
27 authority and such clerk, department or authority shall provide the

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 division with such records. In the event such clerk, department or
2 authority lacks such records, the division may request the license hold-
3 er provide information sufficient to constitute such record and such
4 license holder shall provide the division with such information. Such
5 information shall be limited to the license holder's name, date of
6 birth, gender, race, residential address, social security number and
7 firearms possessed by said license holder. Nothing in this subdivision
8 shall be construed to change the expiration date or term of such
9 licenses if otherwise provided for in law. Records assembled or
10 collected for purposes of inclusion in the database established by this
11 section shall be released pursuant to a court order. Records assembled
12 or collected for purposes of inclusion in the database created pursuant
13 to section 400.02 of this [chapter] ARTICLE shall not be subject to
14 disclosure pursuant to article six of the public officers law.

15 [(b) Each application for a license pursuant to paragraph (a) of this
16 subdivision shall include, on a separate written form prepared by the
17 division of state police within thirty days of the effective date of the
18 chapter of the laws of two thousand thirteen, which amended this
19 section, and provided to the applicant at the same time and in the same
20 manner as the application for a license, an opportunity for the appli-
21 cant to request an exception from his or her application information
22 becoming public record pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision.
23 Such forms, which shall also be made available to individuals who had
24 applied for or been granted a license prior to the effective date of the
25 chapter of the laws of two thousand thirteen which amended this section,
26 shall notify applicants that, upon discovery that an applicant knowingly
27 provided false information, such applicant may be subject to penalties
28 pursuant to section 175.30 of this chapter, and further, that his or her
29 request for an exception shall be null and void, provided that written
30 notice containing such determination is provided to the applicant.
31 Further, such forms shall provide each applicant an opportunity to spec-
32 ify the grounds on which he or she believes his or her application
33 information should not be publicly disclosed. These grounds, which shall
34 be identified on the application with a box beside each for checking, as
35 applicable, by the applicant, shall be as follows:

36 (i) the applicant's life or safety may be endangered by disclosure
37 because:

38 (A) the applicant is an active or retired police officer, peace offi-
39 cer, probation officer, parole officer, or corrections officer;

40 (B) the applicant is a protected person under a currently valid order
41 of protection;

42 (C) the applicant is or was a witness in a criminal proceeding involv-
43 ing a criminal charge;

44 (D) the applicant is participating or previously participated as a
45 juror in a criminal proceeding, or is or was a member of a grand jury;
46 or

47 (E) the applicant is a spouse, domestic partner or household member of
48 a person identified in this subparagraph or subparagraph (ii) of this
49 paragraph, specifying which subparagraph or subparagraphs and clauses
50 apply.

51 (ii) the applicant has reason to believe his or her life or safety may
52 be endangered by disclosure due to reasons stated by the applicant.

53 (iii) the applicant has reason to believe he or she may be subject to
54 unwarranted harassment upon disclosure of such information.

55 (c) Each form provided for recertification pursuant to paragraph (b)
56 of subdivision ten of this section shall include an opportunity for the

1 applicant to request an exception from the information provided on such
2 form becoming public record pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivi-
3 sion. Such forms shall notify applicants that, upon discovery that an
4 applicant knowingly provided false information, such applicant may be
5 subject to penalties pursuant to section 175.30 of this chapter, and
6 further, that his or her request for an exception shall be null and
7 void, provided that written notice containing such determination is
8 provided to the applicant. Further, such forms shall provide each appli-
9 cant an opportunity to either decline to request the grant or continua-
10 tion of an exception, or specify the grounds on which he or she believes
11 his or her information should not be publicly disclosed. These grounds,
12 which shall be identified in the application with a box beside each for
13 checking, as applicable, by the applicant, shall be the same as provided
14 in paragraph (b) of this subdivision.

15 (d) Information submitted on the forms described in paragraph (b) of
16 this subdivision shall be excepted from disclosure and maintained by the
17 entity retaining such information separate and apart from all other
18 records.

19 (e) (i) Upon receiving a request for exception from disclosure, the
20 licensing officer shall grant such exception, unless the request is
21 determined to be null and void, pursuant to paragraph (b) or (c) of this
22 subdivision.

23 (ii) A request for an exception from disclosure may be submitted at
24 any time, including after a license or recertification has been granted.

25 (iii) If an exception is sought and granted pursuant to paragraph (b)
26 of this subdivision, the application information shall not be public
27 record, unless the request is determined to be null and void. If an
28 exception is sought and granted pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subdivi-
29 sion, the information concerning such recertification application
30 shall not be public record, unless the request is determined to be null
31 and void.

32 (f) The information of licensees or applicants for a license shall not
33 be disclosed to the public during the first one hundred twenty days
34 following the effective date of the chapter of the laws of two thousand
35 thirteen, which amended this section. After such period, the information
36 of those who had applied for or been granted a license prior to the
37 preparation of the form for requesting an exception, pursuant to para-
38 graph (b) of this subdivision, may be released only if such individuals
39 did not file a request for such an exception during the first sixty days
40 following such preparation; provided, however, that no information
41 contained in an application for licensure or recertification shall be
42 disclosed by an entity that has not completed processing any such
43 requests received during such sixty days.

44 (g) If a request for an exception is determined to be null and void
45 pursuant to paragraph (b) or (c) of this subdivision, an applicant may
46 request review of such determination pursuant to article seventy-eight
47 of the civil practice laws and rules. Such proceeding must commence
48 within thirty days after service of the written notice containing the
49 adverse determination. Notice of the right to commence such a petition,
50 and the time period therefor, shall be included in the notice of the
51 determination. Disclosure following such a petition shall not be made
52 prior to the disposition of such review.]

53 S 2. This act shall take effect the first of November next succeeding
54 the date on which it shall have become a law.