

STATE OF NEW YORK

1589--A

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 15, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. ABINANTI, TAYLOR, D'URSO, ORTIZ, VANEL, JAFFEE, PAULIN, BENEDETTO, SEAWRIGHT, ARROYO, DARLING -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes -- recommitted to the Committee on Codes in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law, the mental hygiene law and the penal law, in relation to requiring a mental health evaluation prior to the purchase of any firearm, rifle or shotgun

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 897 of the general business law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. Before any sale, exchange, or disposal pursuant to this article, a purchaser of any firearm, rifle or shotgun shall submit to a mental health evaluation and provide the seller with proof of his or her approval to purchase such firearm, rifle or shotgun pursuant to subdivision (m) of section 7.09 of the mental hygiene law.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 898 of the general business law, as amended by chapter 129 of the laws of 2019, is amended and a new subdivision 2-a is added to read as follows:

1. In addition to any other requirements pursuant to state and federal law, all sales, exchanges or disposals of firearms, rifles or shotguns shall be conducted in accordance with this section unless such sale, exchange or disposal is conducted by a licensed importer⁷ ~~or~~ licensed manufacturer ~~[or licensed dealer]~~, as those terms are defined in 18 USC § 922, when such sale, exchange or disposal is conducted pursuant to that person's federal firearms license ~~[or such sale, exchange or disposal is between members of an immediate family]~~. When a sale, exchange or disposal is conducted pursuant to a person's federal firearms license, before delivering a firearm, rifle or shotgun to any

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

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1 person, either (a) the National Instant Criminal Background Check System
2 (NICS) or its successor has issued a "proceed" response to the federal
3 firearms licensee, or (b) thirty calendar days shall have elapsed since
4 the date the federal firearms licensee contacted NICS to initiate a
5 national instant criminal background check and NICS has not notified the
6 federal firearms licensee that the transfer of the firearm, rifle or
7 shotgun to such person should be denied. [~~For purposes of this section,~~
8 ~~"immediate family" shall mean spouses, domestic partners, children and~~
9 ~~step-children.~~]

10 2-a. Before any sale, exchange, or disposal pursuant to this article,
11 a purchaser of any firearm, rifle or shotgun shall submit to a mental
12 health evaluation and provide the seller with proof of his or her
13 approval to purchase such firearm, rifle or shotgun pursuant to subdivi-
14 sion (m) of section 7.09 of the mental hygiene law.

15 § 3. Section 7.09 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new
16 subdivision (m) to read as follows:

17 (m) The commissioner shall establish within the office of mental
18 health an administrative process for the mental health evaluation of any
19 individual prior to such individual's purchase of any firearm, rifle or
20 shotgun. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations to establish the
21 mental health evaluation process, which shall include, but not be limit-
22 ed to, provisions relating to: (1) the mental health professionals
23 approved to perform such evaluation, (2) the process for evaluation by
24 such mental health professionals and (3) the development of a standard-
25 ized form to be used by the mental health professional performing such
26 evaluation to approve or deny an individual for purchase of a firearm,
27 rifle or shotgun. The denial of an individual for purchase of any
28 firearm, rifle or shotgun may be reviewed de novo pursuant to the
29 proceedings under article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and
30 rules.

31 § 4. Subdivision 3 of section 265.17 of the penal law, as added by
32 chapter 1 of the laws of 2013, is amended and a new subdivision 4 is
33 added to read as follows:

34 3. Knowing that another person is prohibited by law from possessing a
35 firearm, rifle or shotgun because of a prior conviction or because of
36 some other disability which would render him or her ineligible to
37 lawfully possess a firearm, rifle or shotgun in this state, a person
38 disposes of a firearm, rifle or shotgun to such other person[~~;~~]; or

39 4. Knowing that a mental health evaluation is required pursuant to
40 subdivision (m) of section 7.09 of the mental hygiene law, he or she
41 either purchases or disposes of a firearm, rifle or shotgun without such
42 mental health evaluation approval for purchase.

43 § 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
44 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-
45 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
46 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
47 completed on or before such date.