

RES 23-020

Wilmington, Delaware
May 4, 2023

#0299

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Johnson

Co-Sponsors:

Council
Members
Harlee
McCoy
Mills
Bracy
White
B. Fields

Council
President
Congo

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 2 (SB No. 2), An Act to Amend Title 11, Title 24, and Title 29 of the Delaware Code Relating to Deadly Weapons, would amend Titles 11, 24, and 29 of the Delaware Code to establish an application process that would require handgun purchasers to obtain a qualified purchaser permit and to present proof that they have completed a firearms training course within 5 years prior to applying for a permit; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, firearm-related injuries were among the 5 leading causes of death for Americans under the age of 44 years old. Every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, and more than 230 are injured. In an average year, more than 40,000 die, and another 84,000 are wounded by guns nationally. Nearly eight in 10 murders and more than half of deaths by suicide in the United States involve a firearm. According to the National Safety Council, there was a 13.9 percent increase in all gun-related deaths and a 10 percent rise in accidental gun deaths in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Delaware has the 25th highest rate of gun-related fatalities in the U.S. An average of 111 Delawareans are killed by firearms each year. Firearm deaths and injuries cost the State of Delaware an estimated \$714 million annually; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, nearly one in four of Wilmington's violent crimes involved a handgun. In recent years, our City has experienced 7.3 firearm suicides per 100,000 population and 34.7 firearm homicides per 100,000 population. There were 19 shooting incidents with 23 victims in Wilmington between January 1 and April 9, 2023. There were 83 shooting incidents and 106 shooting victims in 2022 and a total of 118 shootings with 149 victims and 39 homicides in 2021; and

WHEREAS, SB No. 2 sets forth an application process for obtaining a handgun qualified purchaser card that preserves the Second Amendment rights of responsible, lawful gun owners; ensures that cardholders are adequately trained to safely operate firearms; closes loopholes in access to guns by mandating that all legal gun sales or transfers verify that an individual possesses a handgun qualified purchaser permit; prohibits access to weapons for individuals convicted of certain criminal offenses, and provides vouchers to low-income purchasers to ensure that cost is not a barrier to the lawful exercise of their Second Amendment rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that City Council is strongly in favor of Senate Bill 2 (SB No. 2), An Act to Amend Title 11, Title 24, and Title 29 of the Delaware Code Relating to Deadly Weapons, which would require that handgun purchasers possess a handgun qualified purchaser permit to buy or obtain a firearm through a transfer of ownership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council urges the members of the Delaware General Assembly to support SB No. 2 to better regulate the sale of firearms and promote responsible gun ownership.

Passed by City Council,
May 4, 2023

ATTEST: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution urges the members of the Delaware General Assembly to support SB No. 2, An Act to Amend Title 11, Title 24, and Title 29 of the Delaware Code Relating to Deadly Weapons, to better regulate the sale and transfer of handguns and promote responsible gun ownership.