

Public Safety and Security Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5454 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REFUND OF CERTAIN FIREARM PERMIT FEES.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/12/2026

File No.: 272

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill aims to hold local permitting authorities accountable for delays and works to protect applicants from administrative inaction related to certain firearm permit provisions. Under current regulations, local authorities do not face consequences for not adhering to statutory deadlines. The bill poses a seventy-dollar refund to applicants if local permitting authorities fail to process a permit application within the statutorily required time limit.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Jason Rojas, House Majority Leader, CGA:](#) Majority Leader Rojas submitted written testimony in support of H.B. 5454 because this change would provide an incentive for municipal permitting authorities who may otherwise fail to act on applications in a timely manner, ensuring firearm ownership is available to those that it should be. He states that the bill also provides reasonable updates to statutes surrounding firearm licensing and ownership, ensuring safe ownership is available to Connecticut's residents.

[Matthew Strasser, V.P. Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc. \(CCDL\):](#) submitted written testimony on behalf of CCDL in support of this bill because he claims it introduces a simple, common-sense measure of accountability should a local permitting authority fail to

process a permit application within the statutorily required time limit. He states the bill provides a needed financial incentive to streamline their processes, allocate appropriate resources and comply with state mandates.

He claims that for years, Connecticut towns and local permitting authorities have struggled to meet the statutorily established deadlines for issuing pistol permits and that some find their applications stuck in administrative limbo. Mr. Strasser says the situation has grown so severe that the CCDL has had to go to great lengths, including pursuing costly and time-consuming litigation to compel towns to follow existing state law.

Stephen Bennett, New Haven Resident: Mr. Bennett submitted written testimony supporting this bill because he claims the process to obtain a pistol permit needs overhauling and streamlining. He states the current application process is time consuming, expensive, and frustrating and argues that forcing towns/cities to refund certain firearm permit fees when the town/city has intentionally gone beyond the statutory time limit, would provide relief to the applicant.

Kurt Weisheit, Terryville Resident submitted written testimony in support of the bill stating that all citizens are expected to obey laws and in his opinion, it is entirely reasonable to expect issuing authorities to do the same.

Peter Estrada, Pistol Instructor: submitted written testimony in support of the bill stating that creating this penalty of loss of revenue would provide an incentive for local permitting authorities to process applications within the statutorily required time limit.

William Quinn, CT Resident: Mr. Quinn submitted testimony supporting this bill and claims in his testimony that this is one of the few proposed changes in Connecticut laws that helps citizens, and requests the fees should be refunded to all who have paid them.

Suzanne Hogdon: Ms. Hogdon submitted testimony supporting this bill. In her testimony she states that obtaining such permits is an “expensive and burdensome process.” She requests that those who paid fees have them returned.

Richard Vollmer: Mr. Vollmer is in support of the bill. He states that “various organizations around the country have used excessive wait times for permits as a means of denying rights.”

Anonymous 30: provided testimony in support of the bill stating, “it decreases cost burden for consumers.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Emma Rybacki, Clerk
Jacqueline Olsen, Assist. Clerk

Date: 3/30/26