
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5454

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REFUND OF CERTAIN FIREARM PERMIT FEES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires local handgun permitting authorities to partially refund the applicant's fees if the authorities do not complete their duties (such as by failing to act on an application) within statutorily established timeframes.

Under Connecticut law, handgun permits are issued under a two-part process, requiring approval from both the local permitting authority and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). The local official investigates an applicant, including through a background check, and issues a temporary state permit; the State Police conduct state and national criminal history record checks on the applicant and issue a five-year state permit.

By law, as part of the handgun permitting process, applicants must pay a \$140 fee and the local permitting authority retaining \$70. The bill instead requires the local authority to refund that \$70 to the applicant if it does not complete its duties within certain timeframes. Unchanged by the bill, applicants must also pay to cover the cost of an FBI national criminal history records check.

As under existing law, once a temporary state permit is approved, the local permitting authority forwards the other \$70 to the DESPP commissioner.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026.

LOCAL PERMITTING AUTHORITY DUTIES

By law, the local permitting authority must inform the applicant whether the permit has been approved or denied within eight weeks of

a submitted application. The local permitting authority must also take the applicant's fingerprints or use any other method of positive identification and forward the fingerprints and positive identifying information to the State Police Bureau of Identification within five business days.

Existing law allows the local permitting authority to issue a temporary state permit before a national criminal history check has been received. Once the national criminal history check has been received by the local permitting authority, the local authority has one week to decide on the permit and notify the applicant. If the results have not been received within eight weeks, the permitting authority must inform the applicant of the delay in writing.

A "local permitting authority" is the chief of police or, where there is no police chief, the municipality's chief executive officer (CEO) (or the resident state trooper or relevant state police officer designated by the municipality's CEO).

BACKGROUND

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)