ASSEMBLY, No. 415 **STATE OF NEW JERSEY** 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by: Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA District 4 (Camden and Gloucester) Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE District 37 (Bergen) Assemblywoman CAROL MURPHY District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblywomen Jasey, Caride, Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman Calabrese

SYNOPSIS

Requires criminal history record background check for rifle and shotgun purchases.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/31/2018)

AN ACT concerning firearms and amending N.J.S.2C:58-3 and
 N.J.S.2C:39-10.

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BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

5 6 7

1. N.J.S.2C:58-3 is amended to read as follows:

8 2C:58-3. a. Permit to purchase a handgun. **[No]** <u>A</u> person shall 9 <u>not</u> sell, give, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of, **[nor]** <u>or</u> 10 receive, purchase, or otherwise acquire a handgun unless the 11 purchaser, assignee, donee, receiver or holder is licensed as a dealer 12 under this chapter or has first secured a permit to purchase a 13 handgun as provided by this section.

14 b. Firearms purchaser identification card.

[No] (1) A person shall not sell, give, transfer, assign or 15 otherwise dispose of [nor], or receive, purchase or otherwise 16 17 acquire an antique cannon or a rifle or shotgun, other than an 18 antique rifle or shotgun, unless the purchaser, assignee, donee, 19 receiver or holder is licensed as a dealer under this chapter or 20 possesses a valid firearms purchaser identification card, and first 21 exhibits [said] the card to the seller, donor, transferor or assignor, 22 and unless the purchaser, assignee, donee, receiver or holder signs a 23 written certification, on a form prescribed by the superintendent, 24 which shall indicate that [he presently] the person currently 25 complies with the requirements of subsection c. of this section and shall contain [his] the person's name, address, and firearms 26 purchaser identification card number or dealer's registration 27 28 number. The [said] certification shall be retained by the seller, as provided in paragraph (4) of subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:58-2, or [, in 29 30 the case of a person who is not a dealer,] by the licensed retail 31 dealer if the transaction is conducted pursuant to paragraph (2) of 32 this subsection. If the seller is not a licensed retail dealer and the 33 transaction is not required to be conducted pursuant to paragraph 34 (2) of this subsection, the seller shall retain the certification or it 35 may be filed with the chief of police of the municipality in which 36 [he] the person resides or with the superintendent.

37 (2) A person shall sell, give, transfer, assign, or otherwise
38 dispose of, or receive, purchase or otherwise acquire a rifle or
39 shotgun only if the transaction is conducted through a licensed retail
40 dealer pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. The provisions
41 of this subsection shall not apply if either party to the transaction is
42 a licensed retail dealer or if the transaction is:

43 (a) between members of an immediate family as defined in
 44 subsection m. of this section, including a temporary transfer

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in **bold-faced brackets** [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined <u>thus</u> is new matter.

1 between a member of the military being deployed and a family 2 member; 3 (b) between law enforcement officers; 4 (c) a transfer of curios or relics as defined in Title 27, Code of 5 Federal Regulations, section 478.11, between collectors of firearms or ammunition as curios or relics as defined in Title 18, United 6 7 States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who have in their possession a 8 valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the Bureau 9 of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; 10 (d) a temporary transfer pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1992, c.74 (C.2C:58-3.1) or section 1 of P.L.1997, c.375 (C.2C:58-3.2); 11 12 (e) a temporary transfer that is necessary to prevent imminent 13 death or serious bodily harm if the transferee is not subject to the 14 disabilities set forth in subsection c. of this section and if the 15 transfer lasts only as long as necessary to prevent such imminent 16 death or serious bodily harm; or 17 (f) a temporary transfer during which the rifle or shotgun is 18 used and handled only in the actual presence of the transferor. 19 (3) Before a transaction under this subsection is conducted, a 20 licensed retail dealer shall take possession of the rifle or shotgun 21 and shall comply with the same requirements under federal and 22 State law that would be required if the dealer was selling or 23 transferring the rifle or shotgun from the dealer's inventory, 24 including completion of a check under the National Instant Criminal 25 Background Check System of the prospective buyer or transferee of 26 the rifle or shotgun and complying with all recordkeeping 27 requirements. 28 (4) Notwithstanding any other requirements of law, the seller or 29 transferor may remove the rifle or shotgun from the premises of the 30 licensed retail dealer while the background check is being 31 conducted, but a dealer shall retake possession of the rifle or 32 shotgun to complete the transfer. 33 (5) If a sale or transfer is denied based on the National Instant 34 Criminal Background Check, the licensed retail dealer shall return 35 the shotgun or rifle to the seller or transferor, who shall be 36 prohibited from transferring the firearm to the prospective buyer or 37 transferee. 38 (6) A licensed retail dealer may charge a reasonable fee for 39 assisting with a transaction pursuant to the provisions of this 40 subsection. 41 c. Who may obtain. No person of good character and good 42 repute in the community in which he lives, and who is not subject to any of the disabilities set forth in this section or other sections of 43 44 this chapter, shall be denied a permit to purchase a handgun or a 45 firearms purchaser identification card, except as hereinafter set 46 No handgun purchase permit or firearms purchaser forth. 47 identification card shall be issued:

(1) To any person who has been convicted of any crime, or a
 disorderly persons offense involving an act of domestic violence as
 defined in section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19), whether or
 not armed with or possessing a weapon at the time of such offense;

5 (2) To any drug dependent person as defined in section 2 of 6 P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-2), to any person who is confined for a 7 mental disorder to a hospital, mental institution or sanitarium, or to 8 any person who is presently an habitual drunkard;

9 (3) To any person who suffers from a physical defect or disease 10 which would make it unsafe for him to handle firearms, to any person who has ever been confined for a mental disorder, or to any 11 12 alcoholic unless any of the foregoing persons produces a certificate 13 of a medical doctor or psychiatrist licensed in New Jersey, or other 14 satisfactory proof, that he is no longer suffering from that particular 15 disability in such a manner that would interfere with or handicap him in the handling of firearms; to any person who knowingly 16 17 falsifies any information on the application form for a handgun 18 purchase permit or firearms purchaser identification card;

(4) To any person under the age of 18 years for a firearms
purchaser identification card and to any person under the age of 21
years for a permit to purchase a handgun;

(5) To any person where the issuance would not be in theinterest of the public health, safety or welfare;

(6) To any person who is subject to a restraining order issued
pursuant to the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,"
P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) prohibiting the person from
possessing any firearm;

(7) To any person who as a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent
for an offense which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a
crime and the offense involved the unlawful use or possession of a
weapon, explosive or destructive device or is enumerated in
subsection d. of section 2 of P.L.1997, c.117 (C.2C:43-7.2);

(8) To any person whose firearm is seized pursuant to the
"Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991,
c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) and whose firearm has not been
returned; or

37 (9) To any person named on the consolidated Terrorist
38 Watchlist maintained by Terrorist Screening Center administered by
39 the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

d. Issuance. The chief of police of an organized full-time
police department of the municipality where the applicant resides or
the superintendent, in all other cases, shall upon application, issue
to any person qualified under the provisions of subsection c. of this
section a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms purchaser
identification card.

Any person aggrieved by the denial of a permit or identification
card may request a hearing in the Superior Court of the county in
which he resides if he is a resident of New Jersey or in the Superior

Court of the county in which his application was filed if he is a 1 2 nonresident. The request for a hearing shall be made in writing 3 within 30 days of the denial of the application for a permit or 4 identification card. The applicant shall serve a copy of his request 5 for a hearing upon the chief of police of the municipality in which 6 he resides, if he is a resident of New Jersey, and upon the 7 superintendent in all cases. The hearing shall be held and a record 8 made thereof within 30 days of the receipt of the application for 9 such hearing by the judge of the Superior Court. No formal 10 pleading and no filing fee shall be required as a preliminary to such 11 hearing. Appeals from the results of such hearing shall be in 12 accordance with law.

13 Applications. Applications for permits to purchase a e. 14 handgun and for firearms purchaser identification cards shall be in 15 the form prescribed by the superintendent and shall set forth the 16 name, residence, place of business, age, date of birth, occupation, 17 sex and physical description, including distinguishing physical 18 characteristics, if any, of the applicant, and shall state whether the 19 applicant is a citizen, whether he is an alcoholic, habitual drunkard, 20 drug dependent person as defined in section 2 of P.L.1970, 21 c.226 (C.24:21-2), whether he has ever been confined or committed 22 to a mental institution or hospital for treatment or observation of a 23 mental or psychiatric condition on a temporary, interim or 24 permanent basis, giving the name and location of the institution or 25 hospital and the dates of such confinement or commitment, whether 26 he has been attended, treated or observed by any doctor or 27 psychiatrist or at any hospital or mental institution on an inpatient 28 or outpatient basis for any mental or psychiatric condition, giving 29 the name and location of the doctor, psychiatrist, hospital or 30 institution and the dates of such occurrence, whether he presently or 31 ever has been a member of any organization which advocates or 32 approves the commission of acts of force and violence to overthrow 33 the Government of the United States or of this State, or which seeks 34 to deny others their rights under the Constitution of either the 35 United States or the State of New Jersey, whether he has ever been 36 convicted of a crime or disorderly persons offense, whether the 37 person is subject to a restraining order issued pursuant to the 38 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, 39 c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) prohibiting the person from possessing 40 any firearm, and such other information as the superintendent shall 41 deem necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter. For the 42 purpose of complying with this subsection, the applicant shall 43 waive any statutory or other right of confidentiality relating to 44 institutional confinement. The application shall be signed by the 45 applicant and shall contain as references the names and addresses of 46 two reputable citizens personally acquainted with him.

1 Application blanks shall be obtainable from the superintendent, 2 from any other officer authorized to grant such permit or 3 identification card, and from licensed retail dealers.

4 The chief police officer or the superintendent shall obtain the 5 fingerprints of the applicant and shall have them compared with any and all records of fingerprints in the municipality and county in 6 7 which the applicant resides and also the records of the State Bureau 8 of Identification and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, provided 9 that an applicant for a handgun purchase permit who possesses a valid firearms purchaser identification card, or who has previously 10 11 obtained a handgun purchase permit from the same licensing 12 authority for which he was previously fingerprinted, and who 13 provides other reasonably satisfactory proof of his identity, need not 14 be fingerprinted again; however, the chief police officer or the 15 superintendent shall proceed to investigate the application to 16 determine whether or not the applicant has become subject to any of 17 the disabilities set forth in this chapter.

18 f. Granting of permit or identification card; fee; term; renewal; 19 revocation. The application for the permit to purchase a handgun together with a fee of \$2, or the application for the firearms 20 purchaser identification card together with a fee of \$5, shall be 21 22 delivered or forwarded to the licensing authority who shall 23 investigate the same and, unless good cause for the denial thereof 24 appears, shall grant the permit or the identification card, or both, if 25 application has been made therefor, within 30 days from the date of 26 receipt of the application for residents of this State and within 45 27 days for nonresident applicants. A permit to purchase a handgun shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of issuance and 28 29 may be renewed by the issuing authority for good cause for an 30 additional 90 days. A firearms purchaser identification card shall 31 be valid until such time as the holder becomes subject to any of the 32 disabilities set forth in subsection c. of this section, whereupon the 33 card shall be void and shall be returned within five days by the 34 holder to the superintendent, who shall then advise the licensing 35 authority. Failure of the holder to return the firearms purchaser 36 identification card to the superintendent within the said five days 37 shall be an offense under subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-10. Any 38 firearms purchaser identification card may be revoked by the 39 Superior Court of the county wherein the card was issued, after 40 hearing upon notice, upon a finding that the holder thereof no 41 longer qualifies for the issuance of such permit. The county 42 prosecutor of any county, the chief police officer of any 43 municipality or any citizen may apply to such court at any time for 44 the revocation of such card.

There shall be no conditions or requirements added to the form or content of the application, or required by the licensing authority for the issuance of a permit or identification card, other than those that are specifically set forth in this chapter. 1 g. Disposition of fees. All fees for permits shall be paid to the 2 State Treasury if the permit is issued by the superintendent, to the 3 municipality if issued by the chief of police, and to the county 4 treasurer if issued by the judge of the Superior Court.

5 h. Form of permit; quadruplicate; disposition of copies. The 6 permit shall be in the form prescribed by the superintendent and shall be issued to the applicant in quadruplicate. Prior to the time 7 8 he receives the handgun from the seller, the applicant shall deliver 9 to the seller the permit in quadruplicate and the seller shall 10 complete all of the information required on the form. Within five days of the date of the sale, the seller shall forward the original 11 12 copy to the superintendent and the second copy to the chief of 13 police of the municipality in which the purchaser resides, except 14 that in a municipality having no chief of police, such copy shall be 15 forwarded to the superintendent. The third copy shall then be 16 returned to the purchaser with the pistol or revolver and the fourth 17 copy shall be kept by the seller as a permanent record.

i. Restriction on number of firearms person may purchase.
Only one handgun shall be purchased or delivered on each permit
and no more than one handgun shall be purchased within any 30day period, but this limitation shall not apply to:

(1) a federal, State or local law enforcement officer or agency
purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance
of their law enforcement duties;

(2) a collector of handguns as curios or relics as defined in Title
18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who has in his
possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by
the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;

29 (3) transfers of handguns among licensed retail dealers,
30 registered wholesale dealers and registered manufacturers;

31 (4) transfers of handguns from any person to a licensed retail32 dealer or a registered wholesale dealer or registered manufacturer;

(5) any transaction where the person has purchased a handgun
from a licensed retail dealer and has returned that handgun to the
dealer in exchange for another handgun within 30 days of the
original transaction, provided the retail dealer reports the exchange
transaction to the superintendent; or

38 (6) any transaction where the superintendent issues an
39 exemption from the prohibition in this subsection pursuant to the
40 provisions of section 4 of P.L.2009, c.186 (C.2C:58-3.4).

The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to afford
or authorize any other exemption from the regulatory provisions
governing firearms set forth in chapter 39 and chapter 58 of Title
2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

A person shall not be restricted as to the number of rifles or
shotguns he may purchase, provided he possesses a valid firearms
purchaser identification card and provided further that he signs the

certification required in subsection b. of this section for each
 transaction.

3 Firearms passing to heirs or legatees. Notwithstanding any j. 4 other provision of this section concerning the transfer, receipt or 5 acquisition of a firearm, a permit to purchase or a firearms 6 purchaser identification card shall not be required, and the transfer 7 provisions of subsection b. of this section shall not apply, for the 8 passing of a firearm upon the death of an owner thereof to his heir 9 or legatee, whether the same be by testamentary bequest or by the 10 laws of intestacy. The person who shall so receive, or acquire said 11 firearm shall, however, be subject to all other provisions of this 12 chapter. If the heir or legatee of such firearm does not qualify to 13 possess or carry it, he may retain ownership of the firearm for the 14 purpose of sale for a period not exceeding 180 days, or for such 15 further limited period as may be approved by the chief law 16 enforcement officer of the municipality in which the heir or legatee 17 resides or the superintendent, provided that such firearm is in the 18 custody of the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality or 19 the superintendent during such period.

k. Sawed-off shotguns. Nothing in this section shall be
construed to authorize the purchase or possession of any sawed-off
shotgun.

1. Nothing in this section and in N.J.S.2C:58-2 shall apply to
 the sale or purchase of a visual distress signalling device approved
 by the United States Coast Guard, solely for possession on a private
 or commercial aircraft or any boat; provided, however, that no
 person under the age of 18 years shall purchase nor shall any person
 sell to a person under the age of 18 years such a visual distress
 signalling device.

m. For the purposes of this section, "immediate family" means
a spouse, domestic partner as defined in section 3 of P.L.2003,
c.246 (C.26:8A-3), partner in a civil union couple as defined in
section 2 of P.L.2006, c.103 (C.37:1-29), parent, stepparent,
grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling, stepsibling, child, stepchild,
grandchild, niece, nephew and first cousin, as related by blood or by
law.

37 (cf: P.L.2013, c.114, s.1)

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39 2. N.J.S.2C:39-10 is amended to read as follows:

40 2C:39-10. Violation of the regulatory provisions relating to 41 firearms; false representation in applications.

a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) and
paragraph (4) of this subsection, any person who knowingly violates
the regulatory provisions relating to manufacturing or wholesaling
of firearms N.J.S.2C:58-1, retailing of firearms N.J.S.2C:58-2,
permits to purchase certain firearms and <u>transferring rifles and</u>
shotguns through a dealer N.J.S.2C:58-3, permits to carry certain
firearms N.J.S.2C:58-4, licenses to procure machine guns or assault

firearms N.J.S.2C:58-5, or incendiary or tracer ammunition 1 2 N.J.S.2C:58-10, except acts which are punishable under section 3 N.J.S.2C:58-5 or section N.J.S.2C:58-2, is guilty of a crime of the

4 fourth degree.

5 (2) A licensed dealer who knowingly violates the provisions of 6 subparagraph (d) of paragraph (5) of subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:58-2 7 is a disorderly person.

8 (3) If, upon review, a law enforcement agency determines that a 9 licensed dealer has sold, transferred, assigned, or otherwise 10 disposed of an inordinate number of firearms and that licensed 11 dealer knew, or should have known, that the firearms would be used 12 in the commission of a crime or would be transferred to a person in 13 order for the firearms to be used for an unlawful purpose, that 14 dealer's license shall, after a hearing, be permanently revoked.

15 (4) A licensed dealer who sells or transfers a firearm to a person 16 knowing that person intends to sell, transfer, assign, or otherwise 17 dispose of that firearm to a person who is disqualified from 18 possessing a firearm under State or federal law is guilty of a crime 19 of the second degree. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law 20 to the contrary, the sentence imposed for a conviction under this subsection shall include a mandatory minimum term of 21 22 imprisonment of 18 months, during which the defendant shall be 23 ineligible for parole; provided however, if the firearm was used in 24 the commission of a crime, the sentence imposed under this 25 subsection shall include a mandatory minimum term of 26 imprisonment of three years, during which the defendant shall be 27 ineligible for parole. Further, a person convicted under this 28 subsection shall be permanently disqualified from holding a retail 29 license under N.J.S.2C:58-2.

30 b. Any person who knowingly violates the regulatory provisions relating to notifying the authorities of possessing certain 31 32 items of explosives N.J.S.2C:58-7, or of certain wounds 33 N.J.S.2C:58-8 is a disorderly person.

34 c. Any person who gives or causes to be given any false 35 information, or signs a fictitious name or address, in applying for a 36 firearms purchaser identification card, a permit to purchase a 37 handgun, a permit to carry a handgun, a permit to possess a machine 38 gun, a permit to possess an assault firearm, or in completing the 39 certificate or any other instrument required by law in purchasing or 40 otherwise acquiring delivery of any rifle, shotgun, handgun, 41 machine gun, or assault firearm or any other firearm, is guilty of a 42 crime of the third degree.

43 d. Any person who gives or causes to be given any false 44 information in registering an assault firearm pursuant to section 11 45 of P.L.1990, c.32 (C.2C:58-12) or in certifying that an assault 46 firearm was rendered inoperable pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1990, 47 c.32 (C.2C:58-13) commits a crime of the fourth degree.

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1 2 e. Any person who knowingly sells, gives, transfers, assigns or

otherwise disposes of a firearm to a person who is under the age of 3 18 years, except as permitted in section 14 of P.L.1979, 4 c.179 (C.2C:58-6.1), is guilty of a crime of the second degree. 5 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the sentence imposed for a conviction under this subsection shall 6 7 include a mandatory minimum five-year term of imprisonment, 8 during which the defendant shall be ineligible for parole. 9 f. Unless the recipient is authorized to possess the handgun in 10 connection with the performance of official duties under the provisions of N.J.S.2C:39-6, any person who knowingly sells, 11 12 gives, transfers, assigns or otherwise disposes of a handgun to a person who is under the age of 21 years, except as permitted in 13 14 section 14 of P.L.1979, c.179 (C.2C:58-6.1), is guilty of a crime of 15 the third degree. 16 Any person who knowingly gives or causes to be given any g. 17 false information or knowingly engages in any other fraudulent 18 conduct in applying for an exemption to purchase more than one 19 handgun in a 30-day period in violation of the provisions of section 4 of P.L.2009, c.186 (C.2C:58-3.4) shall be guilty of a crime of the 20 third degree. The presumption of nonimprisonment set forth in 21 22 N.J.S.2C:44-1 shall not apply to persons convicted under the 23 provisions of this subsection. 24 h. Any person who sells, gives, transfers, assigns, or otherwise 25 disposes of, or receives, purchases or otherwise acquires a rifle or 26 shotgun without conducting the transaction through a licensed retail dealer in violation of the provisions of paragraphs (2) through (6) of 27 28 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:58-3 shall be guilty of a crime of the third 29 degree. 30 (cf: P.L.2013, c.111, s.2) 31 32 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month 33 next following enactment. 34 35 36 **STATEMENT** 37 38 This bill requires all sales or other transfers of rifles and 39 shotguns to be conducted through a retail dealer licensed under State law or a Federal Firearms Licensee. A person who sells or 40 41 otherwise transfers a rifle or shotgun without complying with the 42 provisions of the bill is guilty of a crime of the third degree, which 43 is punishable by a term of imprisonment of three-to-five years, a 44 fine of up to \$15,000, or both. 45 Under the bill, the licensed retail dealer of firearms is required to

45 Under the bill, the licensed retail dealer of lifearms is required to
46 take possession of the rifle or shotgun before a transaction is
47 conducted. The dealer is required to comply with all applicable
48 federal and State requirements as though the dealer were selling or

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1 transferring the rifle or shotgun from the dealer's inventory. This

2 includes completing a National Instant Criminal Background Check

3 of the person acquiring the rifle or shotgun and complying with all

4 recordkeeping requirements.

5 The bill authorizes the seller or transferor to remove the rifle or 6 shotgun from the licensed dealer's premises while the background 7 check is being conducted, but the dealer is required to retake 8 possession of the rifle or shotgun before completing the transfer.

9 When a sale or transfer is denied based on the National Instant 10 Criminal Background Check, the licensed retail dealer is required to 11 return the shotgun or rifle to the seller or transferor. The seller or 12 transferor is prohibited from transferring the firearm to the 13 prospective buyer or transferee.

14 The bill authorizes a licensed dealer to charge a reasonable fee 15 for assisting with a transaction under the bill.

16 Exceptions under the bill include transactions between members 17 of an immediate family, between law enforcement officers, between licensed collectors of firearms or ammunition as curios or relics, 18 19 temporary transfers to participate in certain training courses, certain temporary transfers necessary to prevent imminent death or serious 20 21 bodily harm, and temporary transfers during which the rifle or 22 shotgun is used and handled only in the actual presence of the 23 transferor.