
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 192 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, FRANKEL, BISHOP, CLAY, MCGEEHAN,
SCHLOSSBERG, SIMS, O'BRIEN, THOMAS, PASHINSKI, YOUNGBLOOD,
K. BOYLE, SABATINA, BROWNLEE, KINSEY, DEAN, ROEBUCK AND
COHEN, MARCH 25, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 25, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass and the
2 President of the United States to sign legislation requiring
3 universal background checks for individuals purchasing a
4 firearm.

5 WHEREAS, The National Instant Criminal Background Check
6 System (NICS) has been an effective means for keeping firearms
7 from criminals and other dangerous individuals; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 100 million NICS checks have been made,
9 resulting in more than 700,000 denials; and

10 WHEREAS, For the last 14 years, these checks have kept 1.5
11 million criminals and mentally ill persons from wrongfully
12 obtaining firearms; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite the success of the NICS checks, the system
14 is weakened by loopholes and is missing records of individuals
15 with dangerous mental illnesses; and

16 WHEREAS, Licensed firearms dealers are required to perform an
17 NICS check before a firearm sale; and

18 WHEREAS, However, as many as 40% of firearm purchases occur

1 through transactions where background checks are not required,
2 such as at private sales or gun shows or through Internet sales;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Federal and State agencies have failed to report as
5 many as one million records of individuals with dangerous mental
6 illnesses to the NICS database; and

7 WHEREAS, Jared Loughner, who killed six people and wounded
8 thirteen others, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, in
9 Arizona, had a history of serious mental illness and was not
10 included in the NICS database; and

11 WHEREAS, James Holmes, who carried out a mass shooting in
12 Aurora, Colorado, used ammunition purchased through the Internet
13 without any background check; and

14 WHEREAS, Recent shooting tragedies, including those at
15 Virginia Tech; Aurora, Colorado; and Sandy Hook, Connecticut,
16 have resulted in a national conversation about gun violence; and

17 WHEREAS, Sixty-one mass shootings have occurred over the last
18 three decades; and

19 WHEREAS, More than 12,000 Americans are killed by firearms
20 every year; and

21 WHEREAS, Felons were associated with selling or purchasing
22 firearms in 46% of the gun show investigations conducted by the
23 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and

24 WHEREAS, For every time a firearm is used to injure or kill
25 in self-defense, a firearm is used eleven times for a completed
26 or attempted suicide, seven times in a criminal assault or
27 homicide and four times in an unintentional shooting death or
28 injury; and

29 WHEREAS, Recent polls have shown that more than 90% of
30 Americans favor universal background checks and 83% of those in

1 favor of universal background checks own a firearm; therefore be
2 it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
5 States to pass and the President of the United States to sign
6 legislation requiring universal background checks for
7 individuals purchasing a firearm; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
9 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of
10 each house of Congress and each member of Congress from
11 Pennsylvania.