

5/11/13

Urgent News for NJ Hunters :

I think your group should be made aware of the NJ Senate bill that was just released that is going to have a big impact on NJ Hunters. I'm also hoping that your group will be able to spread this information to other NJ hunters as soon as possible on Facebook or Twitter.

Please read over the details below. If you think this is something important, please forward this to your club members. Encourage them to spread the word. Using electronic media, I hope we can reach enough of the Hunters in South Jersey before it's too late to stop this. Feel free to copy and paste the info below or just forward my email.

If you hunt in NJ, you need to know about a new bill that has a lot of changes for NJ hunters. This bill will probably pass the Senate this week, possibly on Monday.

NJ Senate bill S2723 - The text of the bill was just released. You can find the bill at www.njleg.state.nj.us under "Bills 2012-2013". Type in "2723" for a copy of all 40 pages of new restrictions.

Below is a summary of changes to the current law. It affects hunters more than any law has since FPID cards were introduced.

- Firearm Purchase ID cards (FPID) and Permits to Purchase Pistols (P2Ps) will be replaced by an encoded "strip" on the NJ Driving License.
- This encoding can be remotely disabled.
- Current FPID cards will remain valid until your DL next needs renewing.
- At the renewal of your DL, you will be offered the opportunity to transfer your FPID card into your DL; when you elect 'yes', you will have to undergo a criminal background check prior to the encoding. This will still be done by the local police chief. P2Ps will also be turned on or off remotely.
- FPID encoding will remain valid through subsequent DL renewal.
- P2Ps placed on the DL will be valid until the DL needs renewing, and then will require a further background check. One Gun a Month still applies.
- It appears that the AG may alternatively decide to issue a separate new FPID card, which bears a picture of the holder. These will have to be renewed every 4 years, with a background check required each time.
- The State will develop a new status check to be applied at each purchase, by swiping the card.
- The federal National Instant Background Check (NICS) is still required for each purchase at the Dealer
- Out of state gun shops, that don't have the ability to scan NJ DLs, won't be able to sell guns to NJ residents. No more shopping at Millers or Cabela's.
- In order to get the new FPID card and/or the DL encoding, applicants will have to show proof of training – even if you already have an FPID.
- The new-form FPID card / DL encoding will be required for all ammunition purchases, not just handgun rounds. All ammunition sales will be electronically reported to the State at the time of purchase, and available to Law enforcement in real time.

- You will not be able to purchase handgun ammo unless you present the New Card encoded with a P2P. This seems to say that if you don't want to buy a new pistol, you will need to apply for a P2P anyway to be able to buy ammunition for existing handguns. In other words, you'll need to apply for a P2P (and get background checked) every 4 years, just to be able to buy ammo for your existing guns.
- You need to wait 7 days after paying for a handgun before you can take possession of it.

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee and Senate Budget Committee passed different versions of this bill over the past couple weeks. I was there, as were hundreds of other people who came to speak against these bills. Two or three dozen people showed up in support of these bills and many of those were invited from Newtown Connecticut by Senator Sweeny from Salem County. He is also the sponsor of this bill.

Senator Sweeny is the Senate President which makes him the top democrat in the state. His party is going to vote for this, most of the few republicans in the Senate are likely to vote no. There aren't enough republicans in the Senate to stop this.

Senator Sweeny needs to know that this is going to be a career killer for him if this passes. His district includes Alloway, Bridgeton, Carneys Point, Deerfield, Elk, Elmer, Elsinboro, Lower Alloways Creek, Mannington, Oldmans, Pennsville, Pilesgrove, Pittsgrove, Quinton, Salem, South Harrison, Upper Deerfield, Upper Pittsgrove, Woodstown . A lot, maybe most, of the State's Hunters live in his district.

Please call his office today. Fill is voice mail box, burn up his fax machine, and flood his office with calls as soon as his staff gets in Monday morning. Please feel free to stop by to speak with him too. He can be reached at:

District Office: 935 Kings Highway, Suite 400, West Deptford, NJ 08086 (856) 251-9801
District Office: 199 East Broadway, 1st Floor, Suite G, Salem, NJ 08079 (856) 339-0808

Thank you.