



**152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| BILL: | SENATE BILL NO. 2 |
| SPONSOR: | Senator Lockman |
| DESCRIPTION: | AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11, TITLE 24, AND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO DEADLY WEAPONS. |

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act creates an application process to obtain a handgun-qualified purchaser permit to authorize the purchase of a handgun. Additionally, it requires the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS) to develop and administer a firearm training voucher program for low-income residents to cover the costs of the firearms training course.
3. Delaware State Police (DSP), State Bureau of Identification (SBI) projects that upon enactment, the average workload will increase to 113,000 applications (including fingerprinting and criminal histories) annually. There is also the potential that since the permit is valid for 180 days, some individuals may want to purchase handguns throughout the year, which would require two criminal histories to be conducted annually.
4. This Act expands upon the duties and responsibilities of the SBI. It estimates that it would require an expansion of 28.0 FTE civilian and 10.0 FTE sworn personnel positions to implement and enforce this Act. The Fiscal Year 2024 costs are estimated at \$7,593,058, and one-time costs are estimated at \$2,344,000 and are as follows:
 - a. Addition of 28.0 FTE civilian and 10.0 FTE sworn personnel positions to the SBI for regulation and enforcement.
 - i. Recurring Costs – \$7,593,058
 1. \$2,696,458 in Fiscal Year 2024 personnel costs, including OECs (at a rate of 31.83% for the civilian personnel and at a rate of 32.81% for sworn personnel), for 8.0 FTE, DSP Trooper; 2.0 FTE, DSP Sergeant; 1.0 FTE, Assistant Director; 2.0 FTE, Senior Forensic Print Examiner; 2.0 Forensic Fingerprint Technician; 1.0 FTE, Forensic Fingerprint Technician Supervisor; 20.0 FTE, Intelligence Analyst; 1.0 FTE, Equipment Mechanic; and 1.0 FTE, Telecommunications/Network Technician III.
 2. \$266,000 for the estimated rent for a larger facility to house the new positions.
 3. \$80,000 estimated for associated annual vehicle maintenance and fuel costs.
 4. \$15,600 estimated additional costs associated with high-speed fiber optic needs.
 5. \$2,275,000 estimated for the costs associated with issuing vouchers for low-income residents for the cost of a training course, assuming an average cost of \$175 per course and that approximately 13,000 low-income individuals may qualify for the program under the provisions of this Act.
 6. \$2,260,000 estimated for associated costs that may be assessed by a vendor for the filing of an application, assuming there are 113,000 applications annually.
 - ii. One-Time Costs – \$2,344,000
 1. \$266,000 in supplies for equipment, computers, office furniture, and other supply startup costs for 28.0 FTE civilian positions.

2. \$788,000 for vehicles, vehicle-related equipment, radios, mobile data computer, outfitting, and startup costs for 10.0 FTE sworn positions.
 3. \$1,250,000 for software, server hardware/licensing, and security/access control/cabling needs associated with the startup of this program and additional facility space.
 4. \$40,000 for additional network switches to accommodate the added positions.
5. This Act will require the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) to make significant programming and system modifications to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to ensure compliance. The Fiscal Year 2024 costs are estimated at \$60,111, and one-time costs are estimated at \$224,875 and are as follows:
- a. Addition of 1.0 FTE position to address ongoing maintenance, programming, fixing, testing, auditing, and other post-implementation issues surrounding data integrity and continued coordination with the SBI upon implementing this Act.
 - i. Recurring Costs - \$60,111 in Fiscal Year 2024 Personnel Costs, including OECs (at a rate of 31.83%) for 1.0 FTE, Information Systems Auditor.
 - ii. One-Time Costs - \$224,875
 1. \$221,875 estimated for specialized contractual staff to make coding changes to complete necessary system integration and other related system enhancements.
 2. \$3,000 for the new position's computer equipment and office furniture startup costs.
6. A person aggrieved by the denial or revocation of a permit may request a hearing in the Justice of the Peace Court ("JP Court") within 30 days. The JP Court must hold a hearing within 21 days of receiving the application. A JP Court decision may be appealed to the Superior Court within 15 days. Superior Court may have additional resource needs in future years should appeals from the JP Court become burdensome. The Fiscal Year 2024 costs are estimated at \$138,813, and one-time costs are estimated at \$36,000 and are as follows:
- a. Addition of 2.0 FTE positions to handle the creation, docketing, and review of a filing, as well as research, scheduling, and issuing proper notices as required.
 - i. Recurring Costs - \$138,813 in Fiscal Year 2024 personnel costs, including OECs (at a rate of 31.83%), for 1.0 FTE, Magistrate – JP Court – 1st Term; and 1.0 FTE, Judicial Case Processor III.
 - ii. One-Time Costs – \$36,000
 1. \$6,000 for computer equipment and office furniture startup costs for the new positions.
 2. \$30,000 estimated for system changes to track and manage the appeals.
7. All Fiscal Year 2024 personnel costs have been estimated for nine months of funding, with the annualization of the remaining three months incorporated into subsequent year estimates. Additionally, a 2% inflation cost has been included for projected increases in salary, health insurance, and OECs.

Cost:

| | <u>One-Time</u> | <u>Operating/Recurring</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fiscal Year 2024: | \$2,604,875 | \$7,791,982 |
| Fiscal Year 2025: | | \$8,826,145 |
| Fiscal Year 2026: | | \$8,904,736 |

Prepared by Jason R. Smith
Office of the Controller General