01/27/21 REVISOR KLL/HR 21-02085 as introduced

SENATE STATE OF MINNESOTA NINETY-SECOND SESSION

A bill for an act

relating to public safety; requiring criminal background checks for firearms

S.F. No. 894

(SENATE AUTHORS: LATZ)
DATE
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OFFICIAL STATUS

Introduction and first reading
Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy

transfers; modifying grounds for disqualification of transferee permit; amending 1.3 Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 624.7131; 624.7132; proposing coding for new 1.4 law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 624. 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA: 1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 624.7131, is amended to read: 1.7 624.7131 TRANSFEREE PERMIT; PENALTY. 1.8 Subdivision 1. **Information.** Any person may apply for a transferee permit by providing 1.9 the following information in writing to the chief of police of an organized full time police 1.10 department of the municipality in which the person resides or to the county sheriff if there 1.11 is no such local chief of police: 1.12 (1) the name, residence, telephone number, and driver's license number or 1.13 nonqualification certificate number, if any, of the proposed transferee; 1.14 (2) the sex, date of birth, height, weight, and color of eyes, and distinguishing physical 1.15 characteristics, if any, of the proposed transferee; 1.16 (3) a statement that the proposed transferee authorizes the release to the local police 1.17 1.18 authority of commitment information about the proposed transferee maintained by the commissioner of human services, to the extent that the information relates to the proposed 1.19 transferee's eligibility to possess a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon 1.20

Section 1.

under section 624.713, subdivision 1; and

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(4) a statement by the proposed transferee that the proposed transferee is not prohibited by section 624.713 from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon.

The statements shall be signed and dated by the person applying for a permit. At the time of application, the local police authority shall provide the applicant with a dated receipt for the application. The statement under clause (3) must comply with any applicable requirements of Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, sections 2.31 to 2.35, with respect to consent to disclosure of alcohol or drug abuse patient records.

- Subd. 2. Investigation. The chief of police or sheriff shall check criminal histories, records and warrant information relating to the applicant through the Minnesota Crime Information System, the national criminal record repository, and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The chief of police or sheriff shall also make a reasonable effort to check other available state and local record-keeping systems. The chief of police or sheriff shall obtain commitment information from the commissioner of human services as provided in section 245.041.
- Subd. 3. Forms. Chiefs of police and sheriffs shall make transferee permit application forms available throughout the community. There shall be no charge for forms, reports, investigations, notifications, waivers or any other act performed or materials provided by a government employee or agency in connection with application for or issuance of a transferee permit.
- Subd. 4. Grounds for disqualification. A determination by (a) The chief of police or sheriff that shall refuse to grant a transferee permit if the applicant is prohibited by section 624.713 state or federal law from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon shall be the only basis for refusal to grant a transferee permit or is determined to be a danger to self or others under paragraph (b).
- (b) A chief of police or sheriff shall refuse to grant a permit to a person who is a danger to self or others. The decision of the chief of police or sheriff must be based on documented past contact with law enforcement. A notice of disqualification issued pursuant to this paragraph must describe and document the specific law enforcement contact or contacts relied upon to deny the permit.
- (c) A person is not eligible to submit a permit application under this section if the person has had an application denied pursuant to paragraph (b) and less than six months have elapsed since the denial was issued or the person's appeal under subdivision 8 was denied, whichever is later.

Section 1. 2 (d) A chief of police or sheriff who denies a permit application pursuant to paragraph
(b) must provide a copy of the notice of disqualification to the chief of police or sheriff with
joint jurisdiction over the proposed transferee's residence.

- Subd. 5. **Granting of permits.** (a) The chief of police or sheriff shall issue a transferee permit or deny the application within seven days of application for the permit.
- (b) In the case of a denial, the chief of police or sheriff shall provide an applicant with written notification of a denial and the specific reason for the denial.
 - (c) The permits and their renewal shall be granted free of charge.

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- Subd. 6. **Permits valid statewide.** Transferee permits issued pursuant to this section are valid statewide and shall expire after one year. A transferee permit may be renewed in the same manner and subject to the same provisions by which the original permit was obtained, except that all renewed permits must comply with the standards adopted by the commissioner under section 624.7151. Permits issued pursuant to this section are not transferable. A person who transfers a permit in violation of this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- Subd. 7. **Permit voided; revocation.** (a) The transferee permit shall be void at the time that the holder becomes prohibited from possessing or receiving a pistol under section 624.713, in which event the holder shall return the permit within five days to the issuing authority. If the chief law enforcement officer who issued the permit has knowledge that the permit holder is ineligible to possess firearms, the chief law enforcement officer must revoke the permit and give notice to the holder in writing. Failure of the holder to return the permit within the five days of learning that the permit is void or revoked is a gross misdemeanor unless the court finds that the circumstances or the physical or mental condition of the permit holder prevented the holder from complying with the return requirement.
- (b) When a permit holder receives a court disposition that prohibits the permit holder from possessing a firearm, the court must take possession of the permit, if it is available, and send it to the issuing law enforcement agency. If the permit holder does not have the permit when the court imposes a firearm prohibition, the permit holder must surrender the permit to the assigned probation officer, if applicable. When a probation officer is assigned upon disposition of the case, the court shall inform the probation agent of the permit holder's obligation to surrender the permit. Upon surrender, the probation officer must send the permit to the issuing law enforcement agency. If a probation officer is not assigned to the permit holder, the holder shall surrender the permit as provided for in paragraph (a).

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Subd. 8. **Hearing upon denial.** Any person aggrieved by denial of a transferee permit 4.1 may appeal the denial to the district court having jurisdiction over the county or municipality 4.2 in which the denial occurred. 4.3 Subd. 9. Permit to carry. A valid permit to carry issued pursuant to section 624.714 4.4 constitutes a transferee permit for the purposes of this section and section sections 624.7132 4.5 and 624.7134. 4.6 Subd. 10. Transfer report not required. A person who transfers a pistol or 4.7 semiautomatic military-style assault weapon to a person exhibiting a valid transferee permit 4.8 issued pursuant to this section or a valid permit to carry issued pursuant to section 624.714 4.9 is not required to file a transfer report pursuant to section 624.7132, subdivision 1. 4.10 Subd. 11. Penalty. A person who makes a false statement in order to obtain a transferee 4.11 permit knowing or having reason to know the statement is false is guilty of a gross 4.12 misdemeanor felony. 4.13 Subd. 12. Local regulation. This section shall be construed to supersede municipal or 4.14 county regulation of the issuance of transferee permits. 4.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to crimes 4.16 committed on or after that date. 4.17 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 624.7132, is amended to read: 4.18 624.7132 REPORT OF TRANSFER. 4.19 Subdivision 1. Required information. Except as provided in this section and section 4.20 624.7131, every person who agrees to transfer a pistol or semiautomatic military-style 4.21 assault weapon shall report the following information in writing to the chief of police of 4.22 the organized full-time police department of the municipality where the proposed transferee 4.23 resides or to the appropriate county sheriff if there is no such local chief of police: 4.24 (1) the name, residence, telephone number, and driver's license number or 4.25 nonqualification certificate number, if any, of the proposed transferee; 4.26 (2) the sex, date of birth, height, weight, and color of eyes, and distinguishing physical 4.27 characteristics, if any, of the proposed transferee; 4.28 (3) a statement that the proposed transferee authorizes the release to the local police 4.29 authority of commitment information about the proposed transferee maintained by the 4.30 commissioner of human services, to the extent that the information relates to the proposed 4.31

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transferee's eligibility to possess a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapo
under section 624.713, subdivision 1;

- (4) a statement by the proposed transferee that the transferee is not prohibited by section 624.713 from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon; and
 - (5) the address of the place of business of the transferor.

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The report shall be signed and dated by the transferor and the proposed transferee. The report shall be delivered by the transferor to the chief of police or sheriff no later than three days after the date of the agreement to transfer, excluding weekends and legal holidays. The statement under clause (3) must comply with any applicable requirements of Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, sections 2.31 to 2.35, with respect to consent to disclosure of alcohol or drug abuse patient records.

Subd. 2. **Investigation.** Upon receipt of a transfer report, the chief of police or sheriff shall check criminal histories, records and warrant information relating to the proposed transferee through the Minnesota Crime Information System, the national criminal record repository, and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The chief of police or sheriff shall also make a reasonable effort to check other available state and local record-keeping systems. The chief of police or sheriff shall obtain commitment information from the commissioner of human services as provided in section 245.041.

Subd. 3. Notification. The chief of police or sheriff shall notify the transferor and proposed transferee in writing as soon as possible if the chief or sheriff determines that the proposed transferee is prohibited by section 624.713 from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon. The notification to the transferee shall specify the grounds for the disqualification of the proposed transferee and shall set forth in detail the transferee's right of appeal under subdivision 13.

Subd. 4. **Delivery.** Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 7 or 8, no person shall deliver a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon to a proposed transferee until five business days after the date the agreement to transfer is delivered to a chief of police or sheriff in accordance with subdivision 1 unless the chief of police or sheriff waives all or a portion of the seven-day waiting period. The chief of police or sheriff may waive all or a portion of the five business day waiting period in writing if the chief of police or sheriff finds that the transferee requires access to a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon because of a threat to the life of the transferee or of any member of the household of the transferee.

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01/27/21 **REVISOR** 21-02085 KLL/HR as introduced No person shall deliver a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon firearm to a proposed transferee after receiving a written notification that the chief of police or sheriff has determined that the proposed transferee is prohibited by section 624.713 from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon firearm. If the transferor makes a report of transfer and receives no written notification of disqualification of the proposed transferee within five business days after delivery of the agreement to transfer, the pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon firearm may be delivered to the transferee. Subd. 5. Grounds for disqualification. A determination by (a) The chief of police or sheriff that shall deny an application if the proposed transferee is prohibited by section 624.713 state or federal law from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon shall be the sole basis for a notification of disqualification under this section or is determined to be a danger to self or others under paragraph (b). (b) A chief of police or sheriff shall deny an application if the person is a danger to self or others. The decision of the chief of police or sheriff must be based on documented past contact with law enforcement. A notice of disqualification issued pursuant to this paragraph must describe and document the specific law enforcement contact or contacts relied upon to deny the application. (c) A chief of police or sheriff need not process an application under this section if the person has had an application denied pursuant to paragraph (b) and less than six months have elapsed since the denial was issued or the person's appeal under subdivision 13 was denied, whichever is later. (d) A chief of police or sheriff who denies an application pursuant to paragraph (b) must provide a copy of the notice of disqualification to the chief of police or sheriff with joint jurisdiction over the applicant's residence. Subd. 6. Transferee permit. If a chief of police or sheriff determines that a transferee is not a person prohibited by section 624.713 from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon, the transferee may, within 30 days after the determination,

Subd. 8. Report not required. If the proposed transferee presents a valid transferee permit issued under section 624.7131 or a valid permit to carry issued under section 624.714, the transferor need not file a transfer report.

apply to that chief of police or sheriff for a transferee permit, and the permit shall be issued.

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Subd. 9. **Number of pistols or semiautomatic military-style assault weapons.** Any number of pistols or semiautomatic military-style assault weapons may be the subject of a single transfer agreement and report to the chief of police or sheriff. Nothing in this section or section 624.7131 shall be construed to limit or restrict the number of pistols or semiautomatic military-style assault weapons a person may acquire.

- Subd. 10. **Restriction on records.** If, after a determination that the transferee is not a person prohibited by section 624.713 from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon, a transferee requests that no record be maintained of the fact of who is the transferee of a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon, the chief of police or sheriff shall sign the transfer report and return it to the transferee as soon as possible. Thereafter, no government employee or agency shall maintain a record of the transfer that identifies the transferee, and the transferee shall retain the report of transfer.
- Subd. 11. **Forms; cost.** Chiefs of police and sheriffs shall make transfer report forms available throughout the community. There shall be no charge for forms, reports, investigations, notifications, waivers or any other act performed or materials provided by a government employee or agency in connection with a transfer.
 - Subd. 12. **Exclusions.** Except as otherwise provided in section 609.66, subdivision 1f, this section shall not apply to transfers of antique firearms as curiosities or for their historical significance or value, transfers to or between federally licensed firearms dealers, transfers by order of court, involuntary transfers, transfers at death or the following transfers:
 - (1) a transfer by a person other than a federally licensed firearms dealer;
- 7.22 (2) a loan to a prospective transferee if the loan is intended for a period of no more than one day;
- 7.24 (3) the delivery of a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon to a person 7.25 for the purpose of repair, reconditioning or remodeling;
- 7.26 (4) a loan by a teacher to a student in a course designed to teach marksmanship or safety with a pistol and approved by the commissioner of natural resources;
 - (5) a loan between persons at a firearms collectors exhibition;
- 7.29 (6) a loan between persons lawfully engaged in hunting or target shooting if the loan is 7.30 intended for a period of no more than 12 hours;
- 7.31 (7) a loan between law enforcement officers who have the power to make arrests other 7.32 than citizen arrests; and

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8.1	(8) a loan between employees or between the employer and an employee in a business
8.2	if the employee is required to carry a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon
8.3	by reason of employment and is the holder of a valid permit to carry a pistol.
8.4	Subd. 13. Appeal. A person aggrieved by the determination of a chief of police or sheriff
8.5	that the person is prohibited by section 624.713 from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic
8.6	military-style assault weapon may appeal the determination as provided in this subdivision.
8.7	The district court shall have jurisdiction of proceedings under this subdivision.
8.8	On review pursuant to this subdivision, the court shall be limited to a determination of
8.9	whether the proposed transferee is a person prohibited from possessing a pistol or
8.10	semiautomatic military-style assault weapon by section 624.713.
8.11	Subd. 14. Transfer to unknown party. (a) No person shall transfer a pistol or
8.12	semiautomatic military-style assault weapon to another who is not personally known to the
8.13	transferor unless the proposed transferee presents evidence of identity to the transferor.
8.14	(b) No person who is not personally known to the transferor shall become a transferee
8.15	of a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon unless the person presents evidence
8.16	of identity to the transferor.
8.17	(e) The evidence of identity shall contain the name, residence address, date of birth, and
8.18	photograph of the proposed transferee; must be made or issued by or under the authority of
8.19	the United States government, a state, a political subdivision of a state, a foreign government,
8.20	a political subdivision of a foreign government, an international governmental or an
8.21	international quasi-governmental organization; and must be of a type commonly accepted
8.22	for the purpose of identification of individuals.
8.23	(d) A person who becomes a transferee of a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault
8.24	weapon in violation of this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor.
8.25	Subd. 15. Penalties. (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), a person who
8.26	does any of the following is guilty of a gross misdemeanor:
8.27	(1) transfers a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon in violation of
8.28	subdivisions 1 to 13;
8.29	(2) transfers a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon to a person who
8.30	has made a false statement in order to become a transferee, if the transferor knows or has

(3) knowingly becomes a transferee in violation of subdivisions 1 to 13; or

reason to know the transferee has made the false statement;

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(4) makes a false statement in order to become a transferee of a pistol or semiautomatic 9.1 military-style assault weapon knowing or having reason to know the statement is false. 9.2 (b) A person who does either of the following is guilty of a felony: 9.3 (1) transfers a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon to a person under 9.4 9.5 the age of 18 in violation of subdivisions 1 to 13; or (2) transfers a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon to a person under 9.6 the age of 18 who has made a false statement in order to become a transferee, if the transferor 9.7 knows or has reason to know the transferee has made the false statement. 9.8 Subd. 16. Local regulation. This section shall be construed to supersede municipal or 9.9 county regulation of the transfer of pistols. 9.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to crimes 9.11 committed on or after that date. 9.12 Sec. 3. [624.7134] PRIVATE PARTY TRANSFERS; BACKGROUND CHECK 9.13 REQUIRED. 9.14 9.15 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) As used in this section, the following terms have the meanings provided in this subdivision. 9.16 9.17 (b) "Firearms dealer" means a person who is licensed by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under United States Code, 9.18 title 18, section 923(a). 9.19 (c) "State or federally issued identification" means a document or card made or issued 9.20 by or under the authority of the United States government or the state that contains the 9.21 person's name, residence address, date of birth, and photograph and is of a type commonly 9.22 accepted for the purpose of identification of individuals. 9.23 Subd. 2. Background check and evidence of identity. A person who is not a firearms 9.24 dealer is prohibited from transferring possession or ownership of a pistol or semiautomatic 9.25 9.26 military-style assault weapon to any other person who is not a firearms dealer, unless the transferee presents a valid transferee permit issued under section 624.7131 and a current 9.27 state or federally issued identification. 9.28 Subd. 3. Record of transfer; required information. (a) When two parties complete 9.29 the transfer of a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon under subdivision 2, 9.30 the transferor and transferee must complete a record of transfer on a form designed and 9.31 made publicly available without fee for this purpose by the superintendent of the Bureau 9.32

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Subd. 6. Exclusions. (a) This section shall not apply to the following transfers:

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(1) a transfer by or to a federally licensed firearms dealer;

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(i) at a shooting range that operates in compliance with the performance standards under

chapter 87A or is a nonconforming use under section 87A.03, subdivision 2, or, if compliance

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committed on or after that date.