

DNK H. Rep. 110  
3/30/2018

**S.55; An Act Relating to the Disposition of Unlawful and Abandoned Firearms  
Summary of Differences in Senate and House Bills**

Topic	As Passed the Senate	House Proposal of Amendment
<b>Storage (House and Senate Secs. 1-5)</b>	Establishes authority of Department of Public Safety to transfer firearms in its possession to Department of Buildings and General Services for sale to federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL).	No substantive changes. Permits municipalities to use proceeds from the sale of the firearms to offset costs of storing non-evidentiary firearms.
<b>Background Checks (Sec. 6)</b>	Requires background check on all private firearm transfers, with exceptions for immediate family members, law enforcement, military, and transfers to prevent imminent harm. Defines a "transfer" to be a transfer of ownership by means of sale, trade, or gift.	Minor substantive changes to use federal definition of "firearm" (which excludes antiques, muzzle loaders, and black powder guns), expand list of family members to whom transfer may be made without a background check, deleting some repetitive language, clarifying that such private transfers are not subject to sales tax, and expressly providing immunity for FFLs who conduct the background checks and facilitate the transfer.
<b>Age restriction (Sec. 7)</b>	Prohibits sale of firearms to persons under 21 years of age, with exceptions for law enforcement and military for purposes of their official duties.	Expands exceptions to include any sale to law enforcement and military personnel, including veterans, and adds exception for person who has completed a hunter's safety course in Vermont or elsewhere.
<b>Large capacity ammunition feeding devices (Sec. 8)</b>	No comparable provision	Prohibits manufacture, possession, transfer, sale, purchase, or receipt or import into Vermont of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, which are defined to be magazines and similar devices capable of accepting more than 10 rounds of ammunition for a long gun or more than 15 rounds of ammunition for a hand gun. Devices lawfully possessed on effective date of act are grandfathered. Dealers are permitted to transfer existing stock until October 1, 2018. Prohibition does not apply

		to: devices manufactured in Vermont for transfer, delivery, and possession outside Vermont; devices brought back into Vermont after being brought out of state by the same person; devices transported into Vermont by a resident of another state for a shooting competition until July 1, 2019; devices possessed by government or active or retired law enforcement; certain tubular devices and lever action or bolt action long guns; or antiques, relics, or curios.
<b>Bump Stocks (Sec. 9)</b>	No comparable provision	Prohibits possession of bump-fire stocks, effective October 1, 2018. Requires DPS to develop, promote, and execute a collection process that permits persons to voluntarily and anonymously relinquish bump stocks before October 1 effective date.
<b>Background Check Report (Sec. 10)</b>	No comparable provision	DPS, ED of Dept. of Sheriffs and State's Attorneys, and Association of Chiefs of Police to report on additional options for conducting background checks on private firearms sales.