# Senate Bill 797

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

### **SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Prohibits transfer of firearm by gun dealer or private party if Department of State Police is unable to determine whether recipient is qualified to receive firearm.

Requires Department of State Police to notify United States Attorney for District of Oregon and all state and local law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction when, during criminal background check performed by gun dealer prior to transfer of firearm, department determines that recipient is prohibited from possessing firearm. Requires department to notify attempted unlawful purchaser's probation officer or court that issued protective order, if applicable. Requires department to make notification within 24 hours unless investigation would be compromised. Requires law enforcement agency or prosecuting attorney's office receiving notification to report to department on action taken after notification and outcome of action. Requires department to publish written report detailing attempted unlawful purchases, including information on investigations and criminal prosecutions.

Modifies definition of relationship status pertaining to types of court orders and misdemeanor convictions that cause person to be prohibited from possessing firearms. Provides that conviction for stalking causes person to be prohibited from possessing firearm unless person obtains relief from prohibition. Punishes unlawful possession by maximum of one year's imprisonment, \$6,250 fine, or both.

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT

- 2 Relating to firearms; amending ORS 166.255, 166.412, 166.418, 166.432, 166.434, 166.435 and 166.436.
- 3 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
- 4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 166.412 is amended to read:
- 5 166.412. (1) As used in this section:
- (a) "Antique firearm" has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. 921;
- 7 (b) "Department" means the Department of State Police;
- 8 (c) "Firearm" has the meaning given that term in ORS 166.210, except that it does not include 9 an antique firearm;
- 10 (d) "Firearms transaction record" means the firearms transaction record required by 18 U.S.C.
  11 921 to 929:
  - (e) "Firearms transaction thumbprint form" means a form provided by the department under subsection (11) of this section;
- 14 (f) "Gun dealer" means a person engaged in the business, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, of selling, 15 leasing or otherwise transferring a firearm, whether the person is a retail dealer, pawnbroker or 16 otherwise; **and** 
  - [(g) "Handgun" has the meaning given that term in ORS 166.210; and]
- 18 [(h)] (g) "Purchaser" means a person who buys, leases or otherwise receives a firearm from a 19 gun dealer.
  - (2) Except as provided in [subsections (3)(c) and] subsection (12) of this section, a gun dealer shall comply with the following before a [handgun] firearm is delivered to a purchaser:
    - (a) The purchaser shall present to the dealer current identification meeting the requirements

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

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of subsection (4) of this section.

- (b) The gun dealer shall complete the firearms transaction record and obtain the signature of the purchaser on the record.
- (c) The gun dealer shall obtain the thumbprints of the purchaser on the firearms transaction thumbprint form and attach the form to the gun dealer's copy of the firearms transaction record to be filed with that copy.
- (d) The gun dealer shall request by telephone that the department conduct a criminal history record check on the purchaser and shall provide the following information to the department:
  - (A) The federal firearms license number of the gun dealer;
- (B) The business name of the gun dealer;
  - (C) The place of transfer;
  - (D) The name of the person making the transfer;
- (E) The make, model, caliber and manufacturer's number of the [handgun] firearm being transferred;
  - (F) The name and date of birth of the purchaser;
- (G) The Social Security number of the purchaser if the purchaser voluntarily provides this number to the gun dealer; and
  - (H) The type, issuer and identification number of the identification presented by the purchaser.
- (e) The gun dealer shall receive a unique approval number for the transfer from the department and record the approval number on the firearms transaction record and on the firearms transaction thumbprint form.
- (f) The gun dealer may destroy the firearms transaction thumbprint form five years after the completion of the firearms transaction thumbprint form.
- (3)(a) Upon receipt of a request of the gun dealer for a criminal history record check, the department shall immediately, during the gun dealer's telephone call or by return call:
- (A) Determine, from criminal records and other information available to it, whether the purchaser is disqualified under ORS 166.470 from completing the purchase; and
- (B) Notify the dealer when a purchaser is disqualified from completing the transfer or provide the dealer with a unique approval number indicating that the purchaser is qualified to complete the transfer.
- (b) If the department is unable to determine if the purchaser is qualified or disqualified from completing the transfer within 30 minutes, the department shall notify the dealer and provide the dealer with an estimate of the time when the department will provide the requested information.

# The dealer may not transfer the firearm unless the dealer receives a unique approval number from the department.

- [(c) If the department fails to provide a unique approval number to a gun dealer or to notify the gun dealer that the purchaser is disqualified under paragraph (a) of this subsection before the close of the gun dealer's next business day following the request by the dealer for a criminal history record check, the dealer may deliver the handgun to the purchaser.]
- (4)(a) Identification required of the purchaser under subsection (2) of this section shall include one piece of current identification bearing a photograph and the date of birth of the purchaser that:
- (A) Is issued under the authority of the United States Government, a state, a political subdivision of a state, a foreign government, a political subdivision of a foreign government, an international governmental organization or an international quasi-governmental organization; and
  - (B) Is intended to be used for identification of an individual or is commonly accepted for the

1 purpose of identification of an individual.

- (b) If the identification presented by the purchaser under paragraph (a) of this subsection does not include the current address of the purchaser, the purchaser shall present a second piece of current identification that contains the current address of the purchaser. The Superintendent of State Police may specify by rule the type of identification that may be presented under this paragraph.
- (c) The department may require that the dealer verify the identification of the purchaser if that identity is in question by sending the thumbprints of the purchaser to the department.
- (5) The department shall establish a telephone number that shall be operational seven days a week between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. for the purpose of responding to inquiries from dealers for a criminal history record check under this section.
- (6) No public employee, official or agency shall be held criminally or civilly liable for performing the investigations required by this section provided the employee, official or agency acts in good faith and without malice.
- (7)(a) The department may retain a record of the information obtained during a request for a criminal history record check for no more than five years.
- (b) The record of the information obtained during a request for a criminal history record check by a gun dealer is exempt from disclosure under public records law.
- [(c) If the department determines that a purchaser is prohibited from possessing a firearm under ORS 166.250 (1)(c), as soon as practicable, the department may report the attempted transfer and the purchaser's name to the appropriate law enforcement agency.]
- (c) If the department determines that a purchaser is prohibited from possessing a firearm under ORS 166.250 (1)(c), the department shall report the attempted transfer and the purchaser's name to the United States Attorney for the District of Oregon and to all state and local law enforcement agencies and district attorneys that have jurisdiction over the location or locations where the attempted transfer was made and where the purchaser resides.
- (d) If the department determines that the purchaser is prohibited from possessing a firearm as a condition of probation under ORS 137.540 (1)(L), the department shall report the attempted transfer to the purchaser's probation officer.
- (e) If the department determines that the purchaser is prohibited from possessing a firearm due to a court order described in ORS 166.255 (1)(a), the department shall report the attempted transfer to the court that issued the order.
- (f) The report required by paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of this subsection shall be made within 24 hours after the determination is made, unless the report would compromise an ongoing investigation, in which case the report may be delayed as long as necessary to avoid compromising the investigation.
- (g) On or before January 31 of each year, a law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office that received a report pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection during the previous calendar year shall inform the department of the action that was taken concerning each attempted transfer and the outcome of the action.
- (h) After receiving the information described in paragraph (g) of this subsection, the department shall annually publish a written report detailing the following information for the previous year:
  - (A) The number of attempted purchasers whom the department determined were pro-

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hibited from possessing a firearm under ORS 166.250 (1)(c), arranged by category of prohibited possessor;

- (B) The number of reports made pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection;
- (C) The number of investigations arising from the reports made pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection, the number of investigations concluded and the number of investigations referred for prosecution, all arranged by category of prohibited possessor; and
- (D) The number of criminal charges arising from the reports made pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection and the disposition of the charges, both arranged by category of prohibited possessor.
- (8) A law enforcement agency may inspect the records of a gun dealer relating to transfers of [handguns] **firearms** with the consent of a gun dealer in the course of a reasonable inquiry during a criminal investigation or under the authority of a properly authorized subpoena or search warrant.
  - (9) When a [handgun] firearm is delivered, it shall be unloaded.
- (10) In accordance with applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the Superintendent of State Police may adopt rules necessary for:
  - (a) The design of the firearms transaction thumbprint form;

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- (b) The maintenance of a procedure to correct errors in the criminal records of the department;
- (c) The provision of a security system to identify dealers who request a criminal history record check under subsection (2) of this section; and
  - (d) The creation and maintenance of a database of the business hours of gun dealers.
- (11) The department shall publish the firearms transaction thumbprint form and shall furnish the form to gun dealers on application at cost.
- (12) This section does not apply to transactions between persons licensed as dealers under 18 U.S.C. 923.
- (13)(a) If requested by a transferor who is not a gun dealer, a gun dealer may request a criminal background check pursuant to ORS 166.435 or 166.438 and may charge a reasonable fee for providing the service.
- (b) A gun dealer that requests a criminal background check under this subsection is immune from civil liability for any use of the firearm by the recipient or transferee, provided that the gun dealer requests the criminal background check as described in this section.

# SECTION 2. ORS 166.434 is amended to read:

- 166.434. [(1) Notwithstanding the fact that ORS 166.412 requires a gun dealer to request a criminal history record check only when transferring a handgun, a gun dealer shall comply with the requirements of ORS 166.412 before transferring any firearm to a purchaser. The provisions of ORS 166.412 apply to the transfer of firearms other than handguns to the same extent that they apply to the transfer of handguns.]
- [(2)] (1) In addition to the determination required by ORS 166.412 (3)(a)(A), in conducting a criminal background check or criminal history record check, the Department of State Police shall also determine whether the recipient is otherwise prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm.
- [(3)] (2) Notwithstanding ORS 166.412 (5), the department is not required to operate the telephone number established under ORS 166.412 (5) on Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day.
- [(4)(a)] (3)(a) The department may charge a fee, not to exceed the amount authorized under ORS 166.414, for criminal background checks required under this section or ORS 166.435 or 166.436.
  - (b) The department shall establish a reduced fee for subsequent criminal background checks on

- 1 the same recipient that are performed during the same day between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- 2 **SECTION 3.** ORS 166.418 is amended to read:
- 3 166.418. (1) A person commits the crime of improperly transferring a firearm if the person is a
- 4 gun dealer as defined in ORS 166.412 and sells, leases or otherwise transfers a firearm and inten-
- 5 tionally violates ORS 166.412 [or 166.434].
  - (2) Improperly transferring a firearm is a Class A misdemeanor.
- 7 **SECTION 4.** ORS 166.432 is amended to read:
- 8 166.432. (1) As used in ORS 166.412, 166.433, 166.434, 166.435, 166.436 and 166.438, "criminal
- 9 background check" or "criminal history record check" means determining the eligibility of a person
- 10 to purchase or possess a firearm by reviewing state and federal databases including, but not limited
- 11 to, the:

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- 12 (a) Oregon computerized criminal history system;
- (b) Oregon mental health data system;
- 14 (c) Law Enforcement Data System;
- 15 (d) National Instant Criminal Background Check System; and
- 16 (e) Stolen guns system.
- 17 (2) As used in ORS 166.433, [166.434,] 166.435, 166.436, 166.438 and 166.441:
- 18 (a) "Gun dealer" has the meaning given that term in ORS 166.412.
  - (b) "Gun show" means an event at which more than 25 firearms are on site and available for transfer.

## **SECTION 5.** ORS 166.435 is amended to read:

- 166.435. (1) As used in this section:
  - (a) "Transfer" means the delivery of a firearm from a transferor to a transferee, including, but not limited to, the sale, gift, loan or lease of the firearm. "Transfer" does not include the temporary provision of a firearm to a transferee if the transferor has no reason to believe the transferee is prohibited from possessing a firearm or intends to use the firearm in the commission of a crime, and the provision occurs:
- (A) At a shooting range, shooting gallery or other area designed for the purpose of target shooting, for use during target practice, a firearms safety or training course or class or a similar lawful activity;
  - (B) For the purpose of hunting, trapping or target shooting, during the time in which the transferee is engaged in activities related to hunting, trapping or target shooting;
- (C) Under circumstances in which the transferee and the firearm are in the presence of the transferor;
- (D) To a transferee who is in the business of repairing firearms, for the time during which the firearm is being repaired;
  - (E) To a transferee who is in the business of making or repairing custom accessories for firearms, for the time during which the accessories are being made or repaired; or
  - (F) For the purpose of preventing imminent death or serious physical injury, and the provision lasts only as long as is necessary to prevent the death or serious physical injury.
  - (b) "Transferee" means a person who is not a gun dealer or licensed as a manufacturer or importer under 18 U.S.C. 923 and who intends to receive a firearm from a transferor.
- (c) "Transferor" means a person who is not a gun dealer or licensed as a manufacturer or importer under 18 U.S.C. 923 and who intends to deliver a firearm to a transferee.
- 45 (2) Except as provided in ORS 166.436 and 166.438 and subsection (4) of this section, a transferor

may not transfer a firearm to a transferee unless the transfer is completed through a gun dealer as described in subsection (3) of this section.

- (3)(a) A transferor may transfer a firearm to a transferee only as provided in this section. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, prior to the transfer both the transferor and the transferee must appear in person before a gun dealer, with the firearm, and request that the gun dealer perform a criminal background check on the transferee.
- (b) If the transferor and the transferee reside over 40 miles from each other, the transferor may ship or deliver the firearm to a gun dealer located near the transferee or a gun dealer designated by the transferee, and the transferor need not appear before the gun dealer in person.
- (c) A gun dealer who agrees to complete a transfer of a firearm under this section shall request a criminal history record check on the transferee as described in ORS 166.412 and shall comply with all requirements of federal law.
  - (d) If, upon completion of a criminal background check, the gun dealer:
- (A) Receives a unique approval number from the Department of State Police indicating that the transferee is qualified to complete the transfer, the gun dealer shall notify the transferor, enter the firearm into the gun dealer's inventory and transfer the firearm to the transferee.
- (B) Receives notification that the transferee is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing or receiving the firearm, or that the department is unable to determine if the transferee is qualified or disqualified from completing the transfer, the gun dealer shall notify the transferor and neither the transferor nor the gun dealer shall transfer the firearm to the transferee. If the transferor shipped or delivered the firearm to the gun dealer pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection, the gun dealer shall comply with federal law when returning the firearm to the transferor.
- (e) A gun dealer may charge a reasonable fee for facilitating a firearm transfer pursuant to this section.
  - (4) The requirements of subsections (2) and (3) of this section do not apply to:
- (a) The transfer of a firearm by or to a law enforcement agency, or by or to a law enforcement officer, private security professional or member of the Armed Forces of the United States, while that person is acting within the scope of official duties.
- (b) The transfer of a firearm as part of a firearm turn-in or buyback event, in which a law enforcement agency receives or purchases firearms from members of the public.
  - (c) The transfer of a firearm to:
- 32 (A) A transferor's spouse or domestic partner;
- 33 (B) A transferor's parent or stepparent;
- 34 (C) A transferor's child or stepchild;
- 35 (D) A transferor's sibling;

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- 36 (E) A transferor's grandparent;
- 37 (F) A transferor's grandchild;
- 38 (G) A transferor's aunt or uncle;
- 39 (H) A transferor's first cousin;
  - (I) A transferor's niece or nephew; or
- 41 (J) The spouse or domestic partner of a person specified in subparagraphs (B) to (I) of this par-42 agraph.
- 43 (d) The transfer of a firearm that occurs because of the death of the firearm owner, provided that:
  - (A) The transfer is conducted or facilitated by a personal representative, as defined in ORS

1 111.005, or a trustee of a trust created in a will; and

- (B) The transferee is related to the deceased firearm owner in a manner specified in paragraph (c) of this subsection.
- (5)(a) A transferor who fails to comply with the requirements of this section commits a Class A misdemeanor.
  - (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, a transferor who fails to comply with the requirements of this section commits a Class B felony if the transferor has a previous conviction under this section at the time of the offense.

# **SECTION 6.** ORS 166.436 is amended to read:

- 166.436. (1) The Department of State Police shall make the telephone number established under ORS 166.412 (5) available for requests for criminal background checks under this section from persons who are not gun dealers and who are transferring firearms at gun shows.
- (2) Prior to transferring a firearm at a gun show, a transferor who is not a gun dealer may request by telephone that the department conduct a criminal background check on the recipient and shall provide the following information to the department:
  - (a) The name, address and telephone number of the transferor;
  - (b) The make, model, caliber and manufacturer's number of the firearm being transferred;
  - (c) The name, date of birth, race, sex and address of the recipient;
  - (d) The Social Security number of the recipient if the recipient voluntarily provides that number;
  - (e) The address of the place where the transfer is occurring; and
- (f) The type, issuer and identification number of a current piece of identification bearing a recent photograph of the recipient presented by the recipient. The identification presented by the recipient must meet the requirements of ORS 166.412 (4)(a).
- (3)(a) Upon receipt of a request for a criminal background check under this section, the department shall immediately, during the telephone call or by return call:
- (A) Determine from criminal records and other information available to it whether the recipient is disqualified under ORS 166.470 from completing the transfer or is otherwise prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm; and
- (B) Notify the transferor when a recipient is disqualified from completing the transfer or provide the transferor with a unique approval number indicating that the recipient is qualified to complete the transfer. The unique approval number is a permit valid for 24 hours for the requested transfer. If the firearm is not transferred from the transferor to the recipient within 24 hours after receipt of the unique approval number, a new request must be made by the transferor.
- (b) If the department is unable to determine whether the recipient is qualified for or disqualified from completing the transfer within 30 minutes of receiving the request, the department shall notify the transferor and provide the transferor with an estimate of the time when the department will provide the requested information.
- (4) A public employee or public agency incurs no criminal or civil liability for performing the criminal background checks required by this section, provided the employee or agency acts in good faith and without malice.
- (5)(a) The department may retain a record of the information obtained during a request for a criminal background check under this section for the period of time provided in ORS 166.412 (7).
- (b) The record of the information obtained during a request for a criminal background check under this section is exempt from disclosure under public records law.
  - [(c) If the department determines that a recipient is prohibited from possessing a firearm under

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ORS 166.250 (1)(c), as soon as practicable, the department may report the attempted transfer and the recipient's name to the appropriate law enforcement agency.]

- (c) If the department determines that a recipient is prohibited from possessing a firearm under ORS 166.250 (1)(c), the department shall report the attempted transfer and the recipient's name to the United States Attorney for the District of Oregon and to all state and local law enforcement agencies and district attorneys that have jurisdiction over the location or locations where the attempted transfer was made and where the recipient resides.
- (d) If the department determines that the recipient is prohibited from possessing a firearm as a condition of probation under ORS 137.540 (1)(L), the department shall report the attempted transfer to the recipient's probation officer.
- (e) If the department determines that the recipient is prohibited from possessing a firearm due to a court order described in ORS 166.255 (1)(a), the department shall report the attempted transfer to the court that issued the order.
- (f) The report required by paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of this subsection shall be made within 24 hours after the determination is made, unless the report would compromise an ongoing investigation, in which case the report may be delayed as long as necessary to avoid compromising the investigation.
- (g) On or before January 31 of each year, a law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office that received a report pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection during the previous calendar year shall inform the department of the action that was taken concerning each attempted transfer and the outcome of the action.
- (h) After receiving the information described in paragraph (g) of this subsection, the department shall annually publish a written report detailing the following information for the previous year:
- (A) The number of attempted recipients whom the department determined were prohibited from possessing a firearm under ORS 166.250 (1)(c), arranged by category of prohibited possessor:
  - (B) The number of reports made pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection;
- (C) The number of investigations arising from the reports made pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection, the number of investigations concluded and the number of investigations referred for prosecution, all arranged by category of prohibited possessor; and
- (D) The number of criminal charges arising from the reports made pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection and the disposition of the charges, both arranged by category of prohibited possessor.
- (6) The recipient of the firearm must be present when the transferor requests a criminal background check under this section.
- (7)(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, a transferor who receives notification under this section that the recipient is qualified to complete the transfer of a firearm, has the recipient fill out the form required by ORS 166.438 (1)(a) and retains the form as required by ORS 166.438 (2) is immune from civil liability for any use of the firearm from the time of the transfer unless the transferor knows, or reasonably should know, that the recipient is likely to commit an unlawful act involving the firearm.
  - (b) The immunity provided by paragraph (a) of this subsection does not apply:
  - (A) If the transferor knows, or reasonably should know, that the recipient of the firearm intends

- to deliver the firearm to a third person who the transferor knows, or reasonably should know, may not lawfully possess the firearm; or
- 3 (B) In any product liability civil action under ORS 30.900 to 30.920.
  - **SECTION 7.** ORS 166.255 is amended to read:

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- 166.255. (1) It is unlawful for a person to knowingly possess a firearm or ammunition if:
- (a) The person is the subject of a court order that:
- (A) Was issued or continued after a hearing for which the person had actual notice and during the course of which the person had an opportunity to be heard;
- (B) Restrains the person from stalking, intimidating, molesting or menacing [an intimate partner] a family or household member, a child of [an intimate partner] a family or household member or a child of the person; and
- (C) Includes a finding that the person represents a credible threat to the physical safety of [an intimate partner] a family or household member, a child of [an intimate partner] a family or household member or a child of the person; [or]
- (b) The person has been convicted of a qualifying misdemeanor and, at the time of the offense, the person was a family **or household** member of the victim of the offense[.]; **or** 
  - (c) The person has been convicted of stalking under ORS 163.732.
- (2) The prohibition described in subsection (1)(a) of this section does not apply with respect to the transportation, shipment, receipt, possession or importation of any firearm or ammunition imported for, sold or shipped to or issued for the use of the United States Government or any federal department or agency, or any state or department, agency or political subdivision of a state.
  - (3) As used in this section:
  - (a) "Convicted" means:
- (A) The person was represented by counsel or knowingly and intelligently waived the right to counsel;
- (B) The case was tried to a jury, if the crime was one for which the person was entitled to a jury trial, or the person knowingly and intelligently waived the person's right to a jury trial; and
  - (C) The conviction has not been set aside or expunged, and the person has not been pardoned.
  - (b) "Deadly weapon" has the meaning given that term in ORS 161.015.
- (c) "Family or household member" [means, with respect to the victim, the victim's spouse, the victim's former spouse, a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, the victim's parent or guardian, a person cohabiting with or who has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, parent or guardian or a person similarly situated to a spouse, parent or guardian of the victim] has the meaning given that term in ORS 135.230.
- [(d) "Intimate partner" means, with respect to a person, the person's spouse, the person's former spouse, a parent of the person's child or another person who has cohabited or is cohabiting with the person in a relationship akin to a spouse.]
  - [(e)] (d) "Possess" has the meaning given that term in ORS 161.015.
- [(f)] (e) "Qualifying misdemeanor" means a misdemeanor that has, as an element of the offense, the use or attempted use of physical force or the threatened use of a deadly weapon.

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