

This bill could penalize people for doing the right thing and it could cost lives.

Imagine that a man in a marginalized community legally owns a firearm and then has a mental health crisis. A breakup, suicidal thoughts, prescription medication difficulties, you name it. Suppose that he has no close relatives in the area and, like many in his community, he is fearful and distrustful of law enforcement. Maybe he's been hassled during traffic stops or is concerned about racism or corruption in police departments or sheriff's offices. Suppose he would like to give his firearm to a roommate or trusted friend, to be kept locked in their safe, until such time as he feels stable and 100% well again.

Would you expect him to call the Department of State Police to run a background check on his roommate or friend and then wait until the paperwork goes through and he gets a reply before transferring possession of his firearm? The Covid-19 pandemic has already caused significant delays in the courts, the DMV, and many other state and local agencies. What other delays and errors might occur in the months and years to come?

No. If someone feels that it would be prudent to keep their firearm in a friend or roommate's safe for the time being, they should feel free to do so immediately, without fear of being prosecuted under this law.

I urge you to reject this proposal.