

HB 2543 attempts to solve a problem which the proponents have failed to demonstrate even exists. It attempts to circumvent the 2nd Amendment by fictitiously creating a scenario which is not borne out in reality. Do not allow this bill to pass out of committee. According to OSP's 2019 FICS Program Overview report (the most recent year for which OSP has statistics, according to OSP's Capt Fox) the number of persons denied transfers each year has remained at under 2% since 1996. The number of transfer requests placed into a pending or delay status each year has remained between 3% and 6% and in each of the 3 years preceding the report had remained at less than 4%. At the time of the 2019 OSP report, the Firearms Transfer Unit operated with 30 fulltime staff members and in 2019 only 15 hours of overtime were used to mitigate staffing shortages within the unit (32 hours of OT used during 2018).

Further, proponents of this bill have yet to provide factual statistics as to how many improper transfers have been executed as a result of OSP's delay in issuing a unique approval number for specific transfer background checks. I myself have received no response to a request I made to Rep. Reynolds over 2 weeks ago asking for specific reasons of her chief sponsorship of this bill. I have spoken with several FFL holders who emphasize that the vicarious liability attached to transferring a firearm prior to obtaining a unique approval number from OSP, delayed or not, is in and of itself sufficiently preventative.

Rather than punishing legally entitled applicants by further delaying the lawful transfer of firearms, the legislature should instead address the cause of the delay problem: increase the staffing and overtime budget of OSP's Firearms Transfer Unit. Kill this bill.