

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB299

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Freitas

3. Committee: Committee Referral Pending

4. Title: Handguns; limitation on purchases.

5. Summary: Removes the provision limiting the purchase of firearms for individuals who are not licensed firearms dealers to one per 30-day period. Under current law, purchasing more than one firearm in a 30-day period is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor. Exemptions are provided under current law for individuals who have completed an enhanced background check by special application to the Department of State Police (VSP), law enforcement agencies, correctional facilities, law enforcement officers, private security companies, antique firearms purchases, to replace stolen or irretrievably lost firearms, for persons who trade in a handgun at the same time a new one is purchased, for persons who hold a concealed handgun permit, and for private sale purchases.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 429.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation removes a provision limiting the purchase of firearms by individuals who are not licensed firearms dealers, and do not meet the exemptions provided, to one per 30-day period. According to the Department of State Police (VSP), the agency will need to modify its Vcheck system, which provides firearms dealers with online instant background checks for gun purchasers, to allow for the purchase of more than one handgun in a 30-day period. VSP estimates a one-time cost of \$50,880 to make these modifications.

The proposed legislation could reduce the number of individuals convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor for violating the one gun per 30-day period rule. Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both. These fines are paid into the state's Literary Fund. Any potential impact on local and regional jails or the Literary Fund as a result of the proposed legislation is indeterminate at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of State Police, Local and regional jails.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is identical to HB14.