

KING-THOMPSON BILL (H.R. 1565)

- ❑ **Bottom Line: The King-Thompson Bill (H.R. 1565) would require background checks for all gun sales in commercial settings, including at gun shows, on the internet, and in classified ads. It would also improve the existing background check system and streamline guns laws.**
 - **Expanded background checks are critically important for shutting off criminal access to guns.** Over **6.6 million guns** are transferred each year through private transfers not subject to background checks. Criminals exploit this loophole—nearly **80%** of those incarcerated for crimes using handguns obtained their guns through private transfers.
- ❑ **Background Checks on Commercial Sales: The bill would help keep guns out of the hands of felons, domestic abusers, and the seriously mentally ill by requiring criminal background checks for commercial gun sales.**
 - **Criminal background checks would be required for guns sold at gun shows, online, and through classified ads.**
 - The bill would cover gun transfers that take place: (1) at or immediately outside of a gun show (defined as any event with more than 75 guns for sale); or (2) pursuant to an advertisement on the internet or in another publication.
 - The bill would **not** cover other types of transfers, including those between friends and family.
 - **Private sellers would be required to conduct background checks through licensed dealers, using the same background check system already used for dealer sales.**
 - Recordkeeping—a critical law enforcement tool: Licensed dealers would run background checks on potential buyers and keep sales records in the same manner as they have for over 40 years for their own sales. These records, maintained by the dealer, enable police to trace crime guns and catch violent criminals.
 - Prohibition on registries: The FBI would still be required to destroy all evidence of successful background checks within 24 hours, and the bill would reiterate and bolster the federal prohibitions on national gun registries.
 - **Penalties:** The bill would make it a felony for a private seller to transfer a gun to a person federally prohibited from buying guns or to a law enforcement officer without a background check at a gun show, online, or through a classified ad. Failure to comply with the background check requirement for sales to other buyers would be a misdemeanor.
- ❑ **Improve the Existing Background Check System: The bill would improve NICS—the federal background checks database —by helping states improve their reporting systems, requiring federal courts to submit records, and removing hurdles to the submission of critical mental health records.**
- ❑ **Streamline Gun Laws: The bill contains provisions to improve and simplify laws for licensed dealers, gun owners, veterans, and active military personnel, including:**
 - Allowing active military personnel to purchase guns in the state where they live, as well as in the state where they are stationed for duty.
 - Ensuring that veterans who are prohibited from owning guns due to determinations of mental incapacitation are given an opportunity to appeal before losing their gun rights.
 - Allowing licensed dealers to sell guns to a resident of any state, provided dealers follow the legal conditions of sale in the state where the sale takes place and the state in which the buyer resides.
 - Clarifying that people traveling across state lines may carry guns that are locked and unloaded.