**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**H. 4551**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Brannon and Willis

Document Path: l:\council\bills\gt\5011cm16.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 917, 918, 4552

Introduced in the House on January 12, 2016

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Background Checks for Firearm Sales and Transfers

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/10/2015 House Prefiled

12/10/2015 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/12/2016 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 103](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\01-12-16.docx))

1/12/2016 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 103](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\01-12-16.docx))

4/26/2016 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Willis

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/10/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\4551_20151210.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 11 TO CHAPTER 31, TITLE 23 SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT NO GUN TRANSFER PRECEDED BY A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK MAY PROCEED, UNLESS THE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE SALE MAY PROCEED, UNTIL AT LEAST TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS HAVE PASSED FROM THE INITIATION OF THE BACKGROUND CHECK, AND TO PROVIDE FOR CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 31, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Article 11

Background Checks for Firearm Sales and Transfers

Section 23‑31‑1110. As used in this article:

(1) ‘Firearm’ means a weapon, including a starter gun, which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of such weapon, a firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or a destructive device. The term does not include an antique firearm.

(2) ‘Licensed dealer’ means the holder of any federal firearms license under 18 U.S.C. Section 923(a).

(3) ‘Transfer’ means to sell, furnish, give, lend, deliver, or otherwise provide, with or without consideration.

(4) ‘Transferee’ means a person who receives or intends to receive a firearm in a sale or transfer.

Section 23‑31‑1120. For any sale or transfer of a firearm for which a licensed dealer contacts the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to conduct a background check, a licensed gun dealer may not deliver a firearm to any transferee unless the NICS provides the licensed dealer with a unique identification number or twenty-eight days have elapsed from the date the licensed dealer contacted the NICS and the NICS has not notified the licensed dealer that a sale or transfer to such person would violate state or federal law.

Section 23‑31‑1130. A person who violates the provisions of this article is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than one thousand dollars, or both.”

SECTION 2. If any provision, word, phrase, or clause of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the provisions, words, phrases, clauses, or applications of this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision, word, phrase, clause, or application, and, to this end, the provisions, words, phrases, and clauses of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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