

# Michigan's Firearm Background Check Law



## Overview

Michigan's new firearm background check law, effective February 13, 2024, requires background checks for all firearm purchases in order to prevent purchases by those who are prohibited from obtaining firearms. Firearms already purchased before the law went into effect are exempt from needing a license.



Before purchasing a firearm, a purchasing license must be obtained from the local police department.



The police department performs a background check to ensure the individual interested in purchasing a firearm is not otherwise prohibited from doing so.



Unless the individual interested in purchasing a firearm fails the background check, a license will be issued. Firearm purchasing licenses are valid for 30 days.

## Penalties

A person who knowingly sells a firearm to someone who is prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms can face fines or jailtime. Additionally, a person who illegally obtains a firearm, lies on a purchasing license application, or uses false identification when attempting to purchase a firearm, can face fines or jailtime.

## Exceptions

A person may inherit a firearm without first having a license, but they must obtain a purchasing license within 30 days of taking possession of a firearm unless they are in the process of disposing it.

A person is not required to obtain a purchasing license to possess a **pistol** if they are at a target range, are trained on the use of the pistol, not otherwise prohibited from possessing that pistol, and the pistol's owner is present and supervising its use. A person under 21 can also possess a pistol at a target range under the same circumstances, as long as a parent, guardian, or person authorized by the parent or guardian are present.

A person under 21 can possess a pistol for hunting without getting a purchasing license beforehand.

The following individuals are not required to obtain a purchasing license to purchase, carry, possess, use, or transport a firearm:

- A resident of another state who is appropriately licensed in their state
- A federally licensed firearm dealer
- A currently employed police officer in Michigan
- An individual purchasing a firearm other than a pistol who has a federal national instant criminal background check performed by a federally licensed firearms dealer less than 5 days prior

Enrolled House Bill No. 4138. (2023, Apr 13). State of Michigan 102nd Legislature. Retrieved February 7, 2024, from <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/publicact/pdf/2023-PA-0019.pdf>

Enrolled House Bill No. 4142. (2023, Apr 13). State of Michigan 102nd Legislature. Retrieved February 7, 2024, from <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/publicact/pdf/2023-PA-0018.pdf>

