

Senate Judiciary Committee

Pete Mulvey 271-4063

HB 551-FN, repealing the license to sell pistols and revolvers.

Hearing Date: April 10, 2025

Time Opened: 2:32 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:40 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gannon, Abbas, McConkey, Altschiller and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill repeals the local licensing requirement for the sale of pistols and revolvers.

Sponsors:

Rep. Granger

Rep. Sellers

Who supports the bill: 10 individuals signed in support of HB 551-FN. Contact peter.mulvey@gc.nh.gov for further details.

Who opposes the bill: 57 individuals signed in opposition to HB 551-FN. Contact peter.mulvey@gc.nh.gov for further details.

Who is neutral on the bill: N/A

Summary of testimony:

Senator Mark McConkey

Senate District 3

- Sen. McConkey introduced HB 551-FN on behalf of Representative Michael Granger.
- HB 551-FN repealed the license to sell pistols and revolvers in the State of New Hampshire.

Jay Simkin

Federally Licensed Firearms Dealer

- Mr. Simkin spoke in support of HB 551-FN, and disclosed that he would stand to benefit from the bill being enacted.

- HB 551-FN would save Mr. Simkin \$10 and an hour of time every three years, because he would no longer be required to submit a notarized, signed application to the local police department via certified mail.
- Mr. Simkin believed that HB 551-FN needed some further amending.
- State licensure of handgun sellers was enacted in 1923, and would be repealed by HB 551-FN.
- The intent of state licensure, which was enacted when there were no federal firearm laws, was to ensure that chief law enforcement officers knew who sold handguns in their jurisdiction
- The 1938 Federal Firearms Act requires dealers to maintain detailed records on the acquisition and disposition of all firearms.
- Mr. Simkin maintained that the 1938 FFA made State handgun licensure for merchants redundant.
- Mr. Simkin encouraged amending the section on the bill's second page which detailed handgun sales to non-residents, as it conflicted with federal law.
- Sales to non-residents can occur, however, transfer must be handled by a licensee within the purchaser's state.

PM

Date Hearing Report completed: April 14, 2025