

Allegheny County Sportsmen's League, Inc.

CELEBRATING 83 YEARS OF ENHANCING CONSERVATION OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OUTDOOR RESOURCES
THE VOICE OF 200,000 LICENSED HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY



ACSL on the Web at www.acslpa.org

Member: National Rifle Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms

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SB 725 PICS elimination – saving taxpayer monies & reducing size of government

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Dear Senator:

Senator Camera Bartolotta on March 9, 2015 sent out a co sponsorship memo for the Elimination of Pa Instant Check System (PICS) and use of the National Instant Check System (NICS) for the transfer of firearms. Rep Tim Krieger version is HB 921 <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&SPick=20150&cosponId=17693>

This proposed legislation will eliminate the cost of having the added level of duplication of state administered services that the National Instant Check system will do at 'NO' EXTRA cost.

The intangible benefits are synopsized below.

'One' of the main problems with PICS is the long wait on hold 30 minutes plus, the frequent crashing of the PSP computers, especially on weekends and around the holidays. All of this costs the state and business lost revenue from lost sales. In a larger sense the Constitutional implications and concerns overshadow the operational ones. This is at the heart of our objections in that operational delays and dysfunction 'essentially' shut down the constitution and we find this unconscionable. Dealers are also checking the NICS system when the state run PICS system is malfunctioning and finding that the state system is the only one inoperative.

Pennsylvania pays extra for the instant check – a job that most states let NICS do for FREE. Perhaps this is why PICS has never issued a cost-benefit analysis. We also have concerns that the state run PICS system has not been, to our knowledge, audited by an independent entity to examine the operational as well as financial performance of this program.

The Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) from 1998 to 2014 has cost the tax payers in excess of estimated 112,000,000.00 dollars (yes, that IS 'millions') to administer to date for background checks for all firearm purchases. The federal NICS would do the same job at no additional cost to taxpayers. It also costs on average \$7 million a year for administration and cost to keep the PICS (PA Instant Check System) including the, arguably, illegal 'Record of Sale' database system.

It would be more productive to use the millions of taxpayer dollars a year spent on the PICS duplicative system, that is forcing legitimate firearms dealers out of

business, put to better use arresting and locking up violent career criminals. Additionally, it is far more effective for the state to be employing more police officers with the money wasted on this system than perpetuating a bureaucratic nightmare of convoluted interpretations of law that includes the creation of a database of firearm owners along with all the abuse associated with it misuse.

As a reminder, here are a few quick points regarding the PSP failing to comply with law:

1. Reclassifying AR-15 rifles as pistols
2. Illegally requiring Social Security Numbers in violation of federal law (Stollenwerk v. PA – PSP lost this court case then ignored Federal Court Judge Sanchez’ decision)
3. Putting firearms purchasers on a delayed status and ‘then’ automatically denying the firearms transaction.

***(the list above is not complete and there are numerous additional examples)

You can see the results of all that (our) money spent in supposedly protecting us from criminals buying guns from FFL dealers. It is important to note that the monies spent are ONLY to identify prohibited individuals during the firearms purchase process and are NOT related to the follow up legal and court costs to prosecute these individuals.

1. Total Illegal Gun Purchase Convictions 1998 -2010 – 1,483
2. Total Arrests 1998 -2010 – 2,296
3. Total Denials Reversed 1998 -2010 – 22,578
4. Total Denials 1998 -2010 – 128,347
5. Total identified prohibited individuals 1998 -2010 – 105,769
(The above number represents individuals that the PSP has not taken any ‘enforcement’ action against for ‘illegally’ attempting to buy a firearm as a disqualified individual)
6. Total Referrals to ATF 1998 -2010 – 198

The PA State Police have wasted at least \$112 million operating the duplicative Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) system between 1998 and 2014, which could have been done at ‘no’ cost to gun owners or Pennsylvania by the National Instant Check system, a part of which includes the retention and maintenance of a gun owner database that many feel is illegal under current law. How many crimes have the state police solved by the staggering amount of money spent?

We respectfully request that you ‘please’ consider adding your name to **SB 725** as a co-sponsor to Senator Camera Bartolotta Eliminating PICS and use the NICS proposed legislation to save the taxpayers several million a year.

SB 725 – Sponsor: Senator Bartolotta – Subject: Elimination of Pa Instant Check System (PICS) and use of the National Instant Check System (NICS) as of 4-22-2015 13 sponsors

*****Status – Judiciary committee since April 16, 2015**

[BARTOLOTTA](#), [SCARNATI](#), [AUMENT](#), [YUDICHAK](#), [VOGEL](#), [STEFANO](#), [WAGNER](#), [WHITE](#), [HUTCHINSON](#), [YAW](#), [WARD](#), [BREWSTER](#) and [ALLOWAY](#)

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2015&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=0725>