

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3289

To amend section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to require an electronic, searchable database of the importation, production, shipment, receipt, sale, or other disposition of firearms.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 1, 2025

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to require an electronic, searchable database of the importation, production, shipment, receipt, sale, or other disposition of firearms.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Crime Gun Tracing
5 Modernization Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELECTRONIC, SEARCHABLE DATABASES.**

7 Section 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, is
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(8)(A) In this paragraph, the term ‘foreign intel-
2 ligence information’ has the meaning given the term in
3 section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act
4 of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

5 “(B) Not later than 3 years after the date of enact-
6 ment of this paragraph, the National Tracing Center of
7 the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
8 (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘National Tracing
9 Center’) shall establish and maintain electronic, search-
10 able databases of all records within its possession of the
11 importation, production, shipment, receipt, sale, or other
12 disposition of firearms required to be submitted to the Bu-
13 reau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives by per-
14 sons licensed under this chapter.

15 “(C) Each licensee under this chapter may provide
16 the National Tracing Center with electronic access, con-
17 sistent with the requirements of this paragraph, to all
18 records within the licensee’s possession that are required
19 to be kept under this chapter.

20 “(D) A licensee may voluntarily relinquish possession
21 of any non-electronic record required to be kept under this
22 chapter to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
23 Explosives if—

24 “(i) 10 years have elapsed from the date of the
25 firearm transaction; or

1 “(ii) in the case of paper acquisition and dis-
2 position books, 10 years have elapsed without any
3 open disposition entries and with no dispositions re-
4 corded in the record.

5 “(E) The National Tracing Center—

6 “(i) shall have remote access to and may query,
7 search, or otherwise access the electronic databases
8 described in this paragraph; and

9 “(ii) may, with the permission of a State, or po-
10 litical subdivision of a State, have remote access to,
11 and may query, search, or otherwise access the data-
12 bases of the firearms registration system or pawn-
13 broker records system of the State or political sub-
14 division.

15 “(F) The National Tracing Center may query,
16 search, or otherwise access the electronic databases de-
17 scribed in this paragraph for only the following purposes:

18 “(i) To obtain information related to a bona
19 fide law enforcement investigation by a Federal,
20 State, local, Tribal, or foreign law enforcement agen-
21 cy.

22 “(ii) To obtain information that is—

23 “(I) foreign intelligence information; or

1 “(II) necessary to understand, or to assess
2 the importance of, foreign intelligence informa-
3 tion.

4 “(iii) To obtain information necessary during a
5 compliance inspection of an active licensee who has
6 submitted non-electronic records in accordance with
7 subparagraph (D).

8 “(G) The databases established under this para-
9 graph—

10 “(i) shall be electronically searchable by date of
11 acquisition or disposition, license number, and the
12 information identified on each firearm or other fire-
13 arm descriptor, including the manufacturer, im-
14 porter, model, serial number, type, and caliber or
15 gauge;

16 “(ii) shall not be electronically searchable by
17 the personally identifiable information of any indi-
18 vidual; and

19 “(iii) shall include in search results the entire
20 contents of the relevant records kept by the licensee.

21 “(H) This paragraph shall take effect notwith-
22 standing any other provision of law, including any tem-
23 porary or permanent restrictions placed on funds made
24 available to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
25 Explosives, or the Department of Justice.

1 “(I) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
2 of this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the Comp-
3 troller General of the United States shall—

4 “(i) carry out an audit on compliance by the
5 National Tracing Center and the Bureau of Alcohol,
6 Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with the require-
7 ments of this paragraph; and

8 “(ii) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary
9 of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary
10 of the House of Representatives a report on the
11 audit carried out under clause (i).”.

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