

wants to purchase or receive a handgun must obtain the annual certificate. This authorizes an individual to acquire one or more during the period that the certificate is valid. A handgun purchaser would appear at a local law enforcement agency within the jurisdiction of the applicant's legal residence, fill out a certificate similar to the federal form which would be approved by the patrol. The police would run a background check on the purchaser. Usually, usually the check would be completed within minutes. But, if necessary, the police would be permitted to go up to two days in the event a computer was down or something of that nature. After the purchaser is approved, he or she is issued the one-year certificate valid throughout the state. The certificate allows the individual to acquire again one or more handguns during the period that the certificate is validated. Any applicant who is denied a certificate is entitled to an expedited appeal in county court. Finally, transfers to gun dealers or government agencies, transfer of antique handguns and transfers between family members are exempt. A willful violation of this procedure would be a Class IV felony. I believe this proposal will work for Nebraska and it would be acceptable to most constituents. It's very simple. It can be done quickly. It will be done quickly because the amendment requires only an annual background check which is completed only for those who want to purchase handguns in the coming year. It will be done with a minimum possible inconvenience. And, again, unless there are computer problems or other problems, there will be no significant waiting period or the certificate to be issued. It does not, and I repeat, does not require registration of handguns. It does not, and I repeat, does not go beyond federal law. My amendment also affords our citizens some protection. As I said, it provides a cooling off effect for those impulsive buyers who specifically purchase a handgun as we would view those with a crime of passion. In summary, I think it offers an effective tool to law enforcement. It allows them the capability to enforce current law, ensure that felons and mental incompetents will be denied easy access to handguns. At the same time, it doesn't intrude on the law abiding citizen's right to own a gun or to give the gun to a family member. It is convenient and is similar to Iowa's law which, incidentally, colleagues, was accepted and endorsed by gun owners and even the NRA. Yesterday, in my conversation with the NRA, and I had mentioned this...my thoughts of this amendment some time ago, unfortunately, with the crush of the session and everything all parties were not able to be brought together. The young man that's in here representing the NRA is a bright,