

Date: 29 April 2020

For Immediate Release

From: North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association (NCRPA)

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<https://www.ncrpa.org/>

**North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association seeks to remove the
Pistol Purchase Permit requirement**

The North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association (NCRPA) announces an initiative to end the state's Pistol Purchase Permit regulations. "Our members and member-gun clubs are eager to begin a statewide grassroots campaign to end Jim Crowe Era-like gun laws," says Fred Edgecomb, NCRPA President. "We're stepping up. The NCRPA has increased our lobbying representation in the state legislature to include a team of highly respected lobbyists from the prestigious law firm of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP. This team will be in addition to, and provide support for, our current lobbyist. Further, we intend to educate the public about this antiquated and unsafe law."

Jim Crow was the name for a system of laws to prevent freed slaves from protecting themselves during Reconstruction and was banished by the Civil Rights Acts of 1954 and 1964. Yet the legal foundation of restrictive and oppressive gun control persists and continues to hobble the right to keep and bear arms today in the form of a Pistol Purchase Permit.

In order to purchase a handgun in North Carolina, a citizen must first apply to their local sheriff for a Pistol Purchase Permit. The applicant must appear in person with a government ID, pay a fee, and undergo a criminal background check. There are no state permitting requirements to buy a rifle or shotgun. However, a potential firearm purchaser undergoes the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) check at the time of purchase. This "instant check" provides the firearms dealer with pertinent information and approval to purchase the firearm at the time of sale. Or, the sale is disapproved.

"A pistol purchase permit is good for five years from the date of issue and herein lies the problem," says Edgecomb, "During that five-year period, an individual can commit a felony,

abuse drugs, or ignore a restraining order, yet not be required to undergo a background check because their permit is current. That is not a safe way to protect the public.”

Last month the NCRPA issued a press release opposing a local official’s exploitation of the COVID-19 pandemic stating that, “During a crisis there should be no doubt about our ability to protect and defend ourselves and loved ones, yet Wake County Sheriff Gerald Baker has taken action that could leave law-abiding citizens defenseless. His office announced that it will not issue new Pistol Purchase Permits until at least April 30th.” While Concealed Handgun Permit holders and those with an approved Pistol Purchase Permit could still obtain handguns, that left new prospective gun owners especially vulnerable.

“This is another example of why the pistol purchase requirement is antiquated and unwarranted, especially during a time of upheaval. Law abiding prospective gun owners need not be prevented from exercising their Second Amendment rights,” says Edgecomb. Due to pressure from NCRPA members and other Second Amendment supporters, the sheriff resumed processing permits in a timely manner.

The NCRPA will seek to remove the Pistol Purchase Permit requirement in the upcoming legislative session.

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The North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association was established in 1938 as the sole state-wide organization affiliated with the National Rifle Association. Our mission is to protect and preserve our Second Amendment right to bear arms and to promote and preserve the shooting sports, the safe use and storage of firearms, and the principles of marksmanship and self-defense.