

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 020657)

RESOLUTION

Urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to enact legislation requiring every manufacturer that ships, transports or delivers a firearm to any person in the state of Pennsylvania to include, in a sealed container, a shell casing of a bullet or projectile discharged from such firearm; and requiring the Pennsylvania State Police to create and maintain an automated electronic statewide ballistic database; and requiring that the Pennsylvania State Police enter in such database information and other ballistic data relevant to identification of the shell casing and the firearm from which it was discharged for every firearm sold, transported, or delivered to any person in the state of Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Requiring gun manufacturers to supply bullet samples from handguns and rifles at their time of sale and entering all pertinent information about the bullet sample and the firearm it was discharged from into a database is also known as ballistic fingerprinting; and

WHEREAS, A statewide ballistic fingerprinting system would allow investigators who have found shell casings or other ballistic evidence at a crime scene to enter data about the bullet's markings into the database and quickly retrieve information about the firearm from which the bullet was fired; and

WHEREAS, Ballistic information contained in a statewide ballistic database could lead investigators to the firearm's owner and possibly the perpetrator of violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, A statewide ballistic fingerprinting system could be instrumental in solving future crimes involving firearms in the state of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Maryland and New York have recently enacted legislation requiring gun makers to supply bullet samples from handguns and rifles at their time of sale and to enter relevant ballistic information in a statewide ballistic database; and

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WHEREAS, A ballistic fingerprinting system has been widely tested and has the support of many experts, including those in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF); and

WHEREAS, In a cooperative agreement between the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and several local police departments, a project called NIBIN is already using ballistic fingerprinting techniques. NIBIN, or National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, involves computerized sharing of crime data on guns and ammunition; and

WHEREAS, The NIBIN system has enabled law enforcement agencies to discover links when the same firearm is used in multiple shooting crimes, even in different states; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council hereby urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to enact legislation requiring that the Pennsylvania State Police enter into an automated electronic database pertinent information and other ballistic data relevant to identification of the shell casing and the firearm from which it was discharged for every firearm sold, transported or delivered to any person in the state of Pennsylvania.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-fourth of October, 2002.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Marie B. Hauser
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke and Ortiz

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Clarke, Ortiz, Reynolds Brown, Miller, Goode, Tasco, DiCicco, Cohen, Nutter, O'Neill and Rizzo