

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REREVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0787.02 Owen Hatch x2698

**HOUSE BILL 26-1265**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY'S USE OF THE UNITED**  
102              **STATES BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND**  
103              **EXPLOSIVES' NATIONAL ELECTRONIC TRACING SYSTEM.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires each law enforcement agency to register for the United States bureau of alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and explosives national electronic tracing system and transmit to the electronic tracing system information about each firearm it recovers or confiscates.

The law enforcement agency is required to share with the Colorado

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 14, 2026

SENATE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
April 13, 2026

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 9, 2026

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 6, 2026

bureau of investigation all information shared with and received from the electronic tracing system.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Effective law enforcement often depends on the timely  
5 exchange of reliable information among agencies in different  
6 jurisdictions. This is especially true in gun crime investigations, where  
7 firearms regularly move across city and state lines before being recovered  
8 by police. Comprehensive tracing data enables investigators to track  
9 firearm movement, identify sources of illegal diversion, and respond to  
10 rising trafficking activity.

11 (b) Strengthening investigative tools available to law enforcement  
12 by requiring agencies to utilize the United States bureau of alcohol,  
13 tobacco, firearms, and explosives' electronic tracing system, participate  
14 in its collective data-sharing features, and submit identifying information  
15 for firearms recovered or confiscated in connection with criminal activity  
16 is crucial as a means for law enforcement agencies to quickly share  
17 reliable information;

18 (c) Standardizing the reporting and sharing of information about  
19 firearms connected with criminal activity will improve real-time  
20 collaboration among local, state, tribal, and federal partners, enabling  
21 investigators to detect crime patterns, link related cases, and identify  
22 trafficking networks and cross-jurisdictional offenders more efficiently;  
23 and

24 (d) Public safety is enhanced by supporting evidence-based  
25 policing, improving coordination among law enforcement agencies, and

1 ensuring that investigators have access to critical tracing and intelligence  
2 data needed to solve gun crimes and hold offenders accountable.

3

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 29-11.7-106 as  
5 follows:

6 **29-11.7-106. Law enforcement use of a national electronic**  
7 **tracing system for recovered firearms - definitions.**

8 (1) (a) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, EACH LAW  
9 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE STATE SHALL REGISTER FOR THE UNITED  
10 STATES BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES  
11 NATIONAL ELECTRONIC TRACING SYSTEM AND SHALL OPT IN TO THE  
12 SYSTEM'S COLLECTIVE DATA-SHARING FEATURE.

13 (b) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT  
14 AGENCY THAT HAS A PREEXISTING RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER LAW  
15 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT ALLOWS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY  
16 TO SUBMIT A FIREARM TO THE ELECTRONIC TRACING SYSTEM, INCLUDING  
17 THE SYSTEM'S COLLECTIVE DATA-SHARING FEATURE, THE COLORADO  
18 STATE PATROL, OR THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

19 (2) (a) WHEN A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY RECOVERS OR  
20 CONFISCATES A FIREARM, THE AGENCY SHALL, AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE,  
21 BUT NO LATER THAN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE AGENCY RECOVERS OR  
22 CONFISCATES THE FIREARM, TRANSMIT THE RELEVANT INFORMATION  
23 REGARDING THE FIREARM TO THE NATIONAL TRACING CENTER'S  
24 ELECTRONIC TRACING SYSTEM.

25 (b) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT RECEIVES A  
26 VOLUNTARILY RELINQUISHED FIREARM OR RECOVERS A FIREARM THAT THE  
27 AGENCY DETERMINES IS NOT CONNECTED WITH A CRIMINAL

1 INVESTIGATION OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY DOES NOT NEED TO TRANSMIT THE  
2 RELEVANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE FIREARM TO THE ELECTRONIC  
3 TRACING SYSTEM.

4 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
5 REQUIRES:

6 (a) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" MEANS A LAW ENFORCEMENT  
7 ENTITY HAVING ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER A FIREARMS-RELATED  
8 CRIME INVESTIGATION, INCLUDING:

- 9 (I) A MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT;
- 10 (II) A SHERIFF'S OFFICE OF A COUNTY OR CITY AND COUNTY;
- 11 (III) A CAMPUS POLICE DEPARTMENT;
- 12 (IV) A TOWN MARSHAL'S OFFICE; AND
- 13 (V) A POLICE OFFICER EMPLOYED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 9 OF  
14 TITLE 32.

15 (b) "RECOVER OR CONFISCATE" MEANS:

16 (I) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OBTAINING AN ITEM FROM A  
17 CRIME SCENE OR AN ITEM IN CONNECTION WITH A CRIMINAL  
18 INVESTIGATION;

19 (II) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SEIZING, OR A PERSON  
20 FORFEITING TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AN ITEM IN CONNECTION  
21 WITH A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING, INVESTIGATION, OR CONVICTION;

22 (III) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SEIZING, OR A PERSON  
23 FORFEITING TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AN ITEM IN CONNECTION  
24 WITH A CRIME THAT HAS AN UNDERLYING FACTUAL BASIS OF DOMESTIC  
25 VIOLENCE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 18-6-800.3 (1);

26 (IV) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ACQUIRING AN ABANDONED  
27 OR DISCARDED FIREARM; OR

1           (V) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OTHERWISE OBTAINING AN  
2           ITEM BELIEVED TO BE CONNECTED WITH A CRIME.

3           **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
4           takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
5           ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
6           12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
7           referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
8           state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
9           within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
10          unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
11          November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
12          official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.