

Facts about Lost or Stolen Handgun Reporting Requirement

- It applies to handguns only, not rifles or shotguns or long guns.
- This has nothing to do with hunting or sportsmen.
- It's about handguns, and helping law enforcement track down and stop the flow of handguns from straw purchasers who give or sell them on the streets to criminals.
- Once a handgun owner discovers his/her handgun lost or stolen, they have 3 days to report it missing to their local police department.
- The lost/stolen handgun must wind up discovered in the course of a criminal investigation for this law to apply. In short, this reform is about illegal trafficking in handguns, and is not about responsible handgun owners.
- Violations of this law will be subject to following penalties:
 - A summary offense for a first violation,
 - A misdemeanor offense for a second violation, and
 - A felony-third degree offense for a third violation.

Overwhelming support from Pennsylvania law enforcement and police

- Police and law enforcement all across Pennsylvania strongly support a lost or stolen handgun reporting requirement, including the following groups:
 - **Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association**
 - **State Fraternal Order of Police**
 - **Pennsylvania State Police**
 - **International Association of Chiefs of Police**
 - **Philadelphia Police Department and Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey**
 - **Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and Police Chief Nathan Harper**
 - **Local FOP Chapters.** Fort Pitt Lodge No. 1 and FOP Lodge 5.
 - **Prosecutors.** Phila. DA Lynne Abraham & Allegheny Cty. DA Stephen Zappala

Pennsylvania's mayors support lost or stolen handgun reporting

- Another group of elected officials on the front lines of Pennsylvania's handgun violence problem supports this reform – **Pennsylvania's mayors**. The mayors of Reading and Allentown, Bethlehem, Lancaster, York, Pottsville, Erie and Philadelphia support reporting of lost or stolen handguns.
- Between 2005 and 2006, robberies with firearms were up 77 percent in Erie, 57 percent in Allentown, 36 percent in Williamsport, 28 percent in Reading, and 12 percent in Allegheny County.

- According to the Uniform Crime Report, there were 158 more homicides by firearm throughout Pennsylvania in 2006 than in 2000 – a 36 percent increase. 27 counties saw increased homicides.
- **Pittsburgh City Council** unanimously approved a Resolution noting Allegheny County’s gun violence problem, supporting lost or stolen handgun reporting, and urging the Assembly to take action. **Philadelphia City Council** approved a similar Resolution. **Harrisburg’s City Council President** supports this reform as well.

Why Law Enforcement is Asking for a Lost or Stolen Handgun Reporting Law

- When police investigators discover a handgun used in a crime, they’re required to trace the handgun back to its original owner. Too often, police say, when investigators track the handgun back to its original owner, that person says, “Oh, the gun was lost or stolen.” The investigation hits a dead end.
- Having a lost or stolen handgun reporting law can help reduce gun crime. If a gun owner reports a handgun lost or stolen, police will initiate an investigation to recover the weapon before it winds up in the wrong hands and is used in a crime.
- As District Attorney Lynne Abraham stated in a letter to House leaders supporting this reform:

“This amendment will target straw purchasers of handguns who put illegal handguns on our streets by buying guns for convicted felons and others who cannot legally possess firearms. All too often these straw purchasers simply claim their gun had been lost and stolen after the gun has been used to commit a crime and the police trace the gun back to its purchaser. We must make these straw purchasers answer for their actions, and Representative Levdansky’s amendments to House Bill 1845 strike the correct balance between protecting the rights of lawful gun owners and holding straw purchasers accountable.”¹

We’re Already Tough on Crime

- We’re spending more than \$1.6 BILLION on corrections and we’re slated to build three new prisons at a cost of \$200 Million each. Our police and prosecutors ARE doing their jobs.

Handgun Violence is a Public Health Crisis

- PA Hospitals spend more than \$130 Million annually treating gun violence victims, most of whom are underinsured or uninsured. Taxpayers are footing the bill for handgun violence.

Pennsylvanians are speaking too – they want a lost or stolen handgun reporting law

- In a recent poll in six legislative districts across Pennsylvania, 96 percent of Pennsylvanians said they supported a lost or stolen handgun reporting requirement. 92 percent of gun owners said they supported a lost or stolen handgun reporting law. The poll was done by Greenberg, Quinlan, Rosner, a national firm which has worked on gun violence for many other groups, including Mayors Against Illegal Guns, headed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, R-New York. **Handgun violence is a bipartisan issue.**

¹ DA Abraham’s letter referenced Amendment 06178, offered by Rep. Levdansky, to HB1845, requiring reporting of lost or stolen handguns. The lost or stolen handgun reporting requirement to be offered by Senator Stack is identical in all key respects to Levdansky’s amendment.