



New York State Association of County Clerks

540 Broadway, Albany New York 12207
An Affiliate of the New York State Association of Counties

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

A.801-a (Paulin) / S.1598-a (Schneiderman)

*AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to providing for
expiration and renewal of certain firearms licenses*

The New York State Association of County Clerks has reviewed the above referenced legislation and opposes the passage of this bill.

This proposed legislation would amend penal law to require the re-licensing and re-certification of pistol permits every five years. This requirement currently exists in the City of New York and counties of Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester but nowhere else in the State.

In many counties, the office of the County Clerk handles the processing of pistol permit applications. Although the County Clerk works with the County Sheriff's office and Federal Bureau of Investigations during portions of the pistol permit applications, most County Clerks have the final responsibility for processing the required documents before the final decision of the licensing officer, a county court judge, is rendered. In many cases this process can take six months or more to be completed requiring significant staff time.

The areas that currently require this renewal process are large urban areas with larger full-time staffs to devote to processing renewal applications. Many smaller upstate counties have limited staff resources and are under budget restraints to freeze or even reduce staff size. Pistol permit fees are typically set well below the cost of providing the actual service. Requiring that all counties, regardless staff size, to process pistol permit renewals, which may be coming in by the hundreds will place an undue burden on many County Clerks' offices.

It is for the aforementioned reasons that the New York State Association of County Clerks opposes this proposed legislation.

If there are any question regarding this position, or any other county clerk issues, please contact Peter Savage of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) at (518) 465-1473, or any of NYSACC members listed below. Thank you.

NYSACC President

Hon. Patricia Ritchie, St. Lawrence County, (315) 379-2237

Legislative Committee Chairs

Hon. Thomas G. Clingan, Albany County Clerk (518) 487-5100

Hon Don M. Read, Genesee County Clerk (585) 344-2550

TO: Assembly Codes, 4/20/09