



Ensuring the safe and lawful transfer of firearms for those subject to final protective orders and those convicted of domestic violence.

The problem: Domestic violence homicide makes up 32% of all homicides in Virginia. Of these, 65.5% are committed with a firearm. Given the lethal combination of domestic violence and firearms, Virginia law currently prohibits those subject to final protective orders and those convicted of assault and battery against a family or household member from purchasing, possessing, or transporting firearms.

However, there is a deadly loophole in current statute. Prohibited individuals are required to certify that their firearms have been transferred without providing any information to the courts or law enforcement about the transferee. There is no enforcement mechanism. Many domestic violence victims tell us that their abusers still have access to their deadly firearms. This bill seeks to clarify transferee eligibility and align transfer protocol across code sections – creating a consistent, clear, and safe process. This technical fix will support more robust implementation and enforcement of the law by giving law enforcement, courts, and communities the tools needed to ensure the transfer of firearms in potentially lethal situations.

Vote YES on [HB 46](#) (Bennett-Parker) and [SB 47](#) (Favola)

These bills DO NOT introduce new policy, they simply align and clarify existing law, ensuring that any person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm:

- ✓ May transfer their firearms to any person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing, provided that they are 21 years of age or older and do not reside in the same home as the prohibited person.
- ✓ Shall inform the clerk of the court of the name and address of the transferee, the federally licensed firearms dealer, or the law-enforcement agency in possession of their firearms.
- ✓ Shall provide the transferee with a copy of the relinquishment certification form at the time of the firearm transfer.
- ✓ Is informed that a law-enforcement officer may obtain a search warrant to search for any firearms if there is reason to believe that any firearms in their possession have not been relinquished.