

  
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish statutory deadlines for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to process permit applications. and require quarterly congressional and public reporting on application processing metrics and compliance.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To establish statutory deadlines for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to process permit applications. and require quarterly congressional and public reporting on application processing metrics and compliance.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reducing Unnecessary  
5 Slowdowns in Handling Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATUTORY PROCESSING DEADLINES.**

2 (a) APPLICATIONS TO THE ATF GENERALLY.—

3 Within 90 calendar days after receipt of an application  
4 not described in subsection (b), the Bureau shall complete  
5 processing of the application.

6 (b) APPLICATIONS RELATING TO LICENSES UNDER  
7 SECTION 923 OF TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.—

8 Within 60 calendar days after receipt of an application  
9 relating to a license under section 923 of title 18, United  
10 States Code, the Bureau shall complete processing of the  
11 application.

12 **SEC. 3. QUARTERLY CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC RE-**  
13 **PORTING REQUIREMENT.**

14 Within 90 days after the date of the enactment of  
15 this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Bureau shall  
16 submit to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability  
17 and on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and  
18 the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and shall  
19 make available to the public on the website of the Bureau,  
20 a report that contains the following, with respect to each  
21 type of application processed during the 90-day period  
22 ending with the date the report is so submitted:

23 (1) A specification of the number of applica-  
24 tions received, approved, denied, and pending.

25 (2) A specification of the length of time taken  
26 to process the applications.

1           (3) A summary of reasons for delays in the  
2           processing of the applications.

3           (4) A summary of reasons for denials of the ap-  
4           plications.

5 **SEC. 4. INTERNAL OVERSIGHT AND IMPLEMENTATION.**

6           (a) APPEALS PROCESS.—The Bureau shall establish  
7           a process for applicants to appeal the denial of an applica-  
8           tion, or to compel the completion of the processing of an  
9           application the processing of which is not in compliance  
10          with section 2.

11          (b) INTERNAL OVERSIGHT.—The Bureau shall estab-  
12          lish procedures to identify the causes of noncompliance  
13          with section 2, and to take necessary corrective actions.

14          (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Bureau shall implement  
15          this Act through the use of funds otherwise made available  
16          to the Bureau for salaries and expenses, and not by hiring  
17          additional personnel or acquiring additional resources, and  
18          in doing so shall eliminate repetitive reviews and unneces-  
19          sary administrative steps, and revise any outdated or du-  
20          plicative procedural processes hindering the timely proc-  
21          essing of permits.

22 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

23          In this Act:

24               (1) APPLICATION.—The term “application”  
25          means an application for a license, permit, author-

1        ization, or a form required by Federal law to be sub-  
2        mitted to the Bureau.

3            (2) BUREAU.—The term “Bureau” means the  
4        Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explo-  
5        sives.

6            (3) EASILY ACCESSIBLE FORMAT.—The term  
7        “easily accessible format” means, with respect to a  
8        report, a format that is available to the general pub-  
9        lic and allows users to efficiently locate and read the  
10       report.