

August 1, 2005

To the Honorable Members of the
Illinois House of Representatives
94th General Assembly

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto - House Bill 340, entitled "AN ACT concerning criminal law." House Bill 340 eliminates the required waiting period for purchasing a firearm if the purchaser is trading in one gun for another. Waiting periods serve an important purpose; they help prevent certain violent crime. Domestic violence shootings, suicide attempts, and crimes of passion may be averted or reduced if a potential offender is required to wait up to 72 hours before purchasing a weapon. This bill allows current gun owners access to more dangerous weapons and or handguns without any cooling off period. I do not believe this exemption is necessary.

For this reason, I hereby veto and return House Bill 340.

Sincerely,

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor