

Chapter 135 / H.4885 Points

- The law continues the practice of opinion-based licensing denials found to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. (Suitability)
- The law creates a new mandate that all firearms be registered with the state on a system that does not exist and for which no funding was provided.
- The law prohibits lawful gun owners from entering onto most government property.
- Hunters will be banned from state managed land that is not directly owned by the Commonwealth.
- The law would ban the possession, of any person of any age, holding a Firearm Identification Card from possessing semi-automatic firearms in common use including basic entry level models.
- The law bans reenactors and hobbyists from possessing the ammunition components for antique style muzzle loaders without a license.
- The law would allow the State to produce rosters of firearms that are banned or eligible for sale at the discretion of the State.
- The law created a brand new definition for “Assault Style Firearms” to drastically broaden what semi-automatic firearms in common use are banned. It utilizes a new list of “features” to determine what an Assault Style Firearm is, including features that most common use firearms have.
- It also sets up a confusing set of so-called grandfathering laws.
- The law perpetuates and expands the cruel and dangerous practices of the “Red Flag” law by not providing any assistance to persons found to be suicidal and no monitoring and/or follow up of those found to be an extreme public safety risk. It also changes the law that anyone can be subject of such an order, not just gun owners.
- The law places great burdens on federally, state, licensed firearm retailers. Most firearms in common use would not be eligible for sale through a retailer because of strict laboratory testing standards, even for the most basic entry level firearms. Common carriers delivering firearms to retailers will be forced to meet secure storage laws. Retailers will be required to register their inventory, a mandate never seen prior.
- The law mandates that everyone seeking a new license take a course for which no curriculum exists in Massachusetts or anywhere in the nation. The cost of the proposed training would likely be cost prohibitive. There are no certified trainers to provide the required training. It would mandate live fire training that would put a strain on private clubs and ranges.
- The law declares all “unfinished frames and receivers” to be firearms, but there is no clear definition of that term. A block of aluminum could legally be considered an unfinished machine gun.

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