

AN ACT MODERNIZING MASSACHUSETTS FIREARMS LAWS

Purpose: To simplify and modernize firearms laws in Massachusetts, ensuring law-abiding residents can own and carry firearms responsibly while maintaining reasonable public safety measures.

Section 1. Licensing and Possession Massachusetts residents may possess rifles, shotguns, handguns, and ammunition without requiring state licensing for ownership. A voluntary safety course and registration system shall be available for those who wish to receive reduced liability protections under the law.

Section 2. Assault Weapons and Magazines Law-abiding residents may possess rifles and handguns of any style, including modern sporting rifles, without state bans. Magazine capacity restrictions over 15 rounds are repealed for law-abiding adults. Firearms previously classified as “assault weapons” may be owned if safely stored.

Section 3. Carrying Firearms Adults may open or concealed carry firearms in public without state licensing. Reasonable restrictions remain for sensitive locations, including K–12 schools and daycare facilities, secure areas of airports, courts, and correctional facilities. Carrying firearms while impaired by alcohol or controlled substances remains illegal.

Section 4. Safe Storage and Transportation Firearms should be stored safely, but mandatory storage laws are replaced with voluntary safety standards and education programs. Firearms may be transported unloaded in vehicles or while traveling for hunting and recreation.

Section 5. Machine Guns and Modifications Automatic firearms, bump stocks, and other modifications may be legally owned by residents who comply with federal registration and background requirements.

Section 6. Background Restrictions Only federal restrictions on firearm ownership apply (felonies, domestic violence convictions, mental health adjudications). Massachusetts shall no longer impose additional state-only prohibitions on lawful adults.

Section 7. Penalties Law-abiding residents following this Act shall not face criminal penalties for firearm possession, transport, or carry. Existing penalties for unsafe or unlawful use of firearms remain.

Section 8. Effective Date This Act shall take effect 90 days after passage to allow transition and public education.

Summary: This Act simplifies Massachusetts firearms laws, removes redundant state restrictions, and protects law-abiding gun owners, while keeping basic safeguards for public safety.