

“The constitutional right to bear arms in public for self-defense is not 'a second-class right, subject to an entirely different body of rules than the other Bill of Rights guarantees,'” the Supreme Court emphasized.

As a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, you have the unique opportunity to safeguard the civil rights of millions of people across the Commonwealth. Earlier this year, there was hope that the House would use their power to do just that with a “top-down” review of the Commonwealth’s gun laws. Unfortunately, rather than simplifying the law and bringing it in compliance with the *Bruen, McDonald and Heller* decisions, we got House Docket 4420. HD.4420 was the worst attack on civil rights in Massachusetts in this century!

It is no longer enough to stop HD.4420! It is time for Massachusetts to comply with three Supreme Court Decisions – *Bruen, McDonald, and Heller!*

Here are some points to address:

- HD.4420 was supposed to be a “top down” review of the State’s gun laws to bring Massachusetts into compliance with civil rights rulings. Instead, the bill did just the opposite and launched an all-out assault on the Second Amendment.
- What specific problem, or problems, is the Commonwealth trying to solve? Not just some general broad sound bites. It seems no one in the legislature can provide a very specific, finite, list of issues that need to be addressed that led to HD.4420.
 - Is it criminal behavior and possession of firearms by prohibited persons then HD4420 is not it.
 - HD4420 does nothing to address crime or any of the mental health matters affecting the Commonwealth.
 - Why can’t the Massachusetts Legislative leadership draft a bill that punishes criminals and addresses the needs of mental health without rather increasing blanket restrictions on responsible gun owners?
- Back in 2014, gun owners worked very hard with the legislature to draft and pass *An Act Relative to the Reduction of Gun Violence* (Chapter 284 of the Acts of 2014) into law. The law focuses mainly on legitimate firearm safety measures and school safety measures. It seems that those provisions have been sitting moth balls for nearly ten years, why?
- Has the legislature actually done a legitimate review on what criminal laws are being utilized by prosecutors and the courts? Anyone paying attention can easily see that the laws already in place are not being enforced, so why should you be passing more.

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**SELF DEFENSE
IS A
HUMAN
RIGHT**

Gun Owners' Action League - goal.org - #selfdefenseisahumanright

There is no fixing HD.4420:

- If this becomes law, about 10% of the Commonwealth's population would become criminals and enemies of the state overnight.
- Nothing in the bill addresses violent crime, mental health, or suicide.
- Everyone who attended the "listening tour", including Chairman Day, stated repeatedly that licensed gun owners are not the problem. This bill totally reflects the opposite.
- This bill will ring the dinner bell for violent criminals to flock to Massachusetts; because we will all be defenseless, including domestic violence victims, the elderly, and people of marginalized communities.
- It is unconscionable that junior shooters would not be allowed to possess, or use, semi-automatic rifles and shotguns. These types of firearms have been used in junior shooting sports since their invention. They offer much reduced recoil making it more comfortable to learn about and safely use firearms.
- Why are we increasing penalties for loss or theft? Are the current laws actually being used against suspected criminal activity? Where is the data?
- The bill, in no way clarifies rules on transport and carry to "comport with constitutional requirements", it actually does just the opposite.
- This bill actually doubles down on the unconstitutional current laws by adding a tremendous volume of new unconstitutional sections of law. It represents a blatant violation of the Supreme Court decision – Bruen.
- Common carrier employees would have to possess a license to carry firearms in the Commonwealth to transport firearms, feeding devices, barrels, frames, receivers and ammunition.
- Potentially every employee in a common carrier facility would have to possess a license to carry.
- Common carrier facilities would have to have a storage area that meets the new definitions.
- Common carriers (UPS, FedEx) must comply with storage and transportation requirements, which is not possible.
 - This would essentially mean that interstate and intrastate commerce of lawful products would cease.
 - This would eventually mean that all licensed retailers would go out of business, leaving no legal means of obtaining products in Massachusetts.
- Anyone under 15 is banned from handling any handgun, semi-automatic rifle, or semi-automatic shotgun. All of which are in common use throughout the junior shooting sports world.
- Bans anyone under 15 from taking part in sanctioned shooting sports and training.
- Ban on possessing any firearm, barrel, frame, receiver, feeding device (loaded or unloaded), or ammunition including ammunition components in a "prohibited area".
 - "prohibited area" shall mean any of the following, including in or upon any part of the buildings, grounds, or parking areas of:
 - a place owned, leased, or under the control of state, county or municipal government used for the purpose of government administration, judicial or court administrative proceedings, or correctional services
 - a location in use as a polling place or used for the storage or tabulation of ballots
 - an elementary school, secondary school, college, university or other educational institution including transport used for students of said institution and places where persons are assembled for educational purposes
 - any private property, including but not limited to residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, institutional or undeveloped property, unless the owner has provided express consent or has posted a sign indicating that it is permissible to carry on the premises a firearm with a valid and lawfully issued firearm license or permit under Chapter 140

And Much More....

