

4752

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

April 27, 2009

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Introduced by Sen. SCHNEIDERMAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and  
when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law and the executive law, in relation to  
banning the sale, possession or use of 50-caliber weapons

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Legislative findings and declaration. The legislature here-  
2 by finds and declares that 50-caliber or larger weapons having the  
3 capacity for rapidly discharging ammunition have no acceptable purpose.  
4 The legislature additionally finds and declares that such weapons pose  
5 such an imminent threat and danger to the safety and security of the  
6 people of this state that it is necessary to ban the possession and use  
7 of such weapons.

8     S 2. Subdivisions 8 and 9 of section 265.00 of the penal law, as  
9 amended by chapter 189 of the laws of 2000, are amended to read as  
10 follows:

11     8. "Gunsmith" means any person, firm, partnership, corporation or  
12 company who engages in the business of repairing, altering, assembling,  
13 manufacturing, cleaning, polishing, engraving or trueing, or who  
14 performs any mechanical operation on, any firearm, large capacity ammu-  
15 nition feeding device, 50-CALIBER WEAPON or machine-gun.

16     9. "Dealer in firearms" means any person, firm, partnership, corpo-  
17 ration or company who engages in the business of purchasing, selling,  
18 keeping for sale, loaning, leasing, or in any manner disposing of, any  
19 assault weapon, large capacity ammunition feeding device, 50-CALIBER  
20 WEAPON, pistol or revolver.

21     S 3. Section 265.00 of the penal law is amended by adding a new subdi-  
22 vision 24 to read as follows:

23     24. "50-CALIBER WEAPON" MEANS A RIFLE CAPABLE OF FIRING A CENTER-FIRE  
24 CARTRIDGE IN 50-CALIBER OR LARGER, .50 BMG CALIBER OR LARGER, ANY OTHER  
25 VARIANT OF 50-CALIBER OR LARGER, OR ANY OTHER METRIC EQUIVALENT OF SUCH

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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CALIBER, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NOTHING IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO INCLUDE ANY MUZZLE LOADING RIFLE OR SHOTGUN WITH A RIFLED BORE.

S 4. Subdivision 3 of section 265.02 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 764 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

(3) Such person knowingly possesses a machine-gun, A 50-CALIBER WEAPON, firearm, rifle or shotgun which has been defaced for the purpose of concealment or prevention of the detection of a crime or misrepresenting the identity of such machine-gun, 50-CALIBER WEAPON, firearm, rifle or shotgun; or

S 5. Section 265.02 of the penal law is amended by adding a new subdivision 4 to read as follows:

(4) SUCH PERSON POSSESSES ANY 50-CALIBER WEAPON; OR

S 6. Section 265.03 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 742 of the laws of 2006 and subdivisions 1 and 3 as amended by chapter 745 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

S 265.03 Criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree.

A person is guilty of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree when SUCH PERSON:

(1) [with intent to use the same unlawfully against another, such person:

(a)] possesses a machine-gun; or

[(b)] (2) possesses a 50-CALIBER WEAPON OR A loaded firearm WITH INTENT TO USE THE SAME UNLAWFULLY AGAINST ANOTHER; or

[(c)] (3) possesses a disguised gun WITH INTENT TO USE THE SAME UNLAWFULLY AGAINST ANOTHER; or

[(2) such person] (4) possesses five or more firearms; or

[(3)] (5) such person possesses any loaded firearm. Such possession shall not, except as provided in subdivision one or seven of section 265.02 of this article, constitute a violation of this subdivision if such possession takes place in such person's home or place of business.

Criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree is a class C felony.

S 7. The penal law is amended by adding two new sections 265.45 and 265.46 to read as follows:

S 265.45 CRIMINAL USE OF A 50-CALIBER WEAPON IN THE SECOND DEGREE.

1. A PERSON IS GUILTY OF CRIMINAL USE OF A 50-CALIBER WEAPON IN THE SECOND DEGREE WHEN HE COMMITS ANY CLASS C VIOLENT FELONY OFFENSE AS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 70.02 OF THIS CHAPTER AND HE USES A 50-CALIBER WEAPON, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION TWENTY-FOUR OF SECTION 265.00 OF THIS ARTICLE, IF THE 50-CALIBER WEAPON IS A LOADED 50-CALIBER WEAPON FROM WHICH A SHOT, READILY CAPABLE OF PRODUCING DEATH OR OTHER SERIOUS INJURY MAY BE DISCHARGED.

2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, WHEN A PERSON IS CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL USE OF A 50-CALIBER WEAPON IN THE SECOND DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION THE COURT SHALL IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL CONSECUTIVE TERM OF FIVE YEARS TO THE MINIMUM TERM OF THE INDETERMINATE SENTENCE OR TERM OF THE DETERMINATE SENTENCE IMPOSED ON THE UNDERLYING CLASS C VIOLENT FELONY CONVICTION. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE AGGREGATE OF THE FIVE YEAR CONSECUTIVE TERM IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION AND THE MINIMUM TERM OF AN INDETERMINATE SENTENCE IMPOSED ON THE UNDERLYING CLASS C VIOLENT FELONY CONVICTION SHALL CONSTITUTE THE NEW AGGREGATE MINIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT, AND A DEFENDANT SUBJECT TO SUCH TERM SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SERVE THE ENTIRE AGGREGATE MINIMUM TERM AND SHALL NOT BE

1 ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE ON PAROLE OR OTHER DISCRETIONARY RELEASE DURING  
2 SUCH TERM.

3 S 265.46 CRIMINAL USE OF A 50-CALIBER WEAPON IN THE FIRST DEGREE.

4 1. A PERSON IS GUILTY OF CRIMINAL USE OF A 50-CALIBER WEAPON IN THE  
5 FIRST DEGREE WHEN HE COMMITS ANY CLASS A FELONY OFFENSE CONSTITUTING  
6 MURDER, KIDNAPPING, ARSON, CONSPIRACY OR SALE OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE  
7 OR ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT ANY SUCH CLASS A FELONY WHERE SUCH ATTEMPT ALSO  
8 CONSTITUTES A CLASS A FELONY, OR ANY CLASS B VIOLENT FELONY OFFENSE AS  
9 DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 70.02 OF THIS  
10 CHAPTER AND HE USES A 50-CALIBER WEAPON, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION TWEN-  
11 TY-FOUR OF SECTION 265.00 OF THIS ARTICLE, IF THE 50-CALIBER WEAPON IS A  
12 LOADED 50-CALIBER WEAPON FROM WHICH A SHOT, READILY CAPABLE OF PRODUCING  
13 DEATH OR OTHER SERIOUS INJURY MAY BE DISCHARGED.

14 2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, WHEN A  
15 PERSON IS CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL USE OF A 50-CALIBER WEAPON IN THE FIRST  
16 DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION THE COURT SHALL  
17 IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL CONSECUTIVE TERM OF TEN YEARS TO THE MINIMUM TERM  
18 OF THE INDETERMINATE SENTENCE OR TERM OF THE DETERMINATE SENTENCE  
19 IMPOSED ON THE UNDERLYING CLASS A OR CLASS B VIOLENT FELONY CONVICTION.  
20 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE AGGRE-  
21 GATE OF THE TEN YEAR CONSECUTIVE TERM IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVI-  
22 SION AND THE MINIMUM TERM OF AN INDETERMINATE SENTENCE IMPOSED ON THE  
23 UNDERLYING CLASS A OR CLASS B VIOLENT FELONY CONVICTION SHALL CONSTITUTE  
24 THE NEW AGGREGATE MINIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT, AND A DEFENDANT SUBJECT  
25 TO SUCH TERM SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SERVE THE ENTIRE AGGREGATE MINIMUM  
26 TERM AND SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE ON PAROLE OR OTHER DISCRE-  
27 TIONARY RELEASE DURING SUCH TERM.

28 S 8. Subdivision 2 of section 265.08 of the penal law, as added by  
29 chapter 233 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:

30 (2) displays what appears to be a pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun,  
31 50-CALIBER WEAPON, machine gun or other firearm.

32 S 9. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 265.09 of the penal  
33 law, as amended by chapter 650 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read  
34 as follows:

35 (b) displays what appears to be a pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun,  
36 50-CALIBER WEAPON, machine gun or other firearm.

37 S 10. Subdivisions 2, 3 and 6 of section 265.10 of the penal law,  
38 subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 257 of the laws of 2008 and subdivi-  
39 sions 3 and 6 as amended by chapter 189 of the laws of 2000, are amended  
40 to read as follows:

41 2. Any person who transports or ships any machine-gun, 50-CALIBER  
42 WEAPON, firearm silencer, assault weapon or large capacity ammunition  
43 feeding device or disguised gun, or who transports or ships as merchan-  
44 dise five or more firearms, is guilty of a class D felony. Any person  
45 who transports or ships as merchandise any firearm, other than an  
46 assault weapon, switchblade knife, gravity knife, pilum ballistic knife,  
47 billy, blackjack, bludgeon, plastic knuckles, metal knuckles, Kung Fu  
48 star, chuka stick, sandbag or slungshot is guilty of a class A misdemea-  
49 nor.

50 3. Any person who disposes of any machine-gun, assault weapon, large  
51 capacity ammunition feeding device, 50-CALIBER WEAPON or firearm silenc-  
52 er is guilty of a class D felony. Any person who knowingly buys,  
53 receives, disposes of, or conceals a machine-gun, 50-CALIBER WEAPON,  
54 firearm, large capacity ammunition feeding device, rifle or shotgun  
55 which has been defaced for the purpose of concealment or prevention of  
56 the detection of a crime or misrepresenting the identity of such

1 machine-gun, 50-CALIBER WEAPON, firearm, large capacity ammunition feed-  
2 ing device, rifle or shotgun is guilty of a class D felony.

3 6. Any person who wilfully defaces any machine-gun, large capacity  
4 ammunition feeding device, 50-CALIBER WEAPON or firearm is guilty of a  
5 class D felony.

6 S 11. Subdivisions 1 and 5 of section 265.15 of the penal law, subdi-  
7 vision 5 as amended by chapter 695 of the laws of 1987, are amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 1. The presence in any room, dwelling, structure or vehicle of any  
10 machine-gun OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON is presumptive evidence of its unlawful  
11 possession by all persons occupying the place where such machine-gun OR  
12 50-CALIBER WEAPON is found.

13 5. The possession by any person of a defaced machine-gun, 50-CALIBER  
14 WEAPON, firearm, rifle or shotgun is presumptive evidence that such  
15 person defaced the same.

16 S 12. Paragraph 2 of subdivision a of section 265.20 of the penal law,  
17 as amended by chapter 189 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as  
18 follows:

19 2. Possession of a machine-gun, large capacity ammunition feeding  
20 device, 50-CALIBER WEAPON, firearm, switchblade knife, gravity knife,  
21 pilum ballistic knife, billy or blackjack by a warden, superintendent,  
22 headkeeper or deputy of a state prison, penitentiary, workhouse, county  
23 jail or other institution for the detention of persons convicted or  
24 accused of crime or detained as witnesses in criminal cases, in pursuit  
25 of official duty or when duly authorized by regulation or order to  
26 possess the same.

27 S 13. Paragraph 8 of subdivision a of section 265.20 of the penal law,  
28 as amended by chapter 189 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as  
29 follows:

30 8. The manufacturer of machine-guns, assault weapons, large capacity  
31 ammunition feeding devices, 50-CALIBER WEAPONS, disguised guns, pilum  
32 ballistic knives, switchblade or gravity knives, billies or blackjacks  
33 as merchandise and the disposal and shipment thereof direct to a regu-  
34 larly constituted or appointed state or municipal police department,  
35 sheriff, policeman or other peace officer, or to a state prison, peni-  
36 tentiary, workhouse, county jail or other institution for the detention  
37 of persons convicted or accused of crime or held as witnesses in crimi-  
38 nal cases, or to the military service of this state or of the United  
39 States.

40 S 14. Section 265.20 of the penal law is amended by adding a new  
41 subdivision e to read as follows:

42 E. THE TERMS "PISTOL," "REVOLVER," "RIFLE," AND "SHOTGUN" AS USED IN  
43 PARAGRAPHS THREE THROUGH FIVE, SEVEN THROUGH SEVEN-B, TWELVE, THIRTEEN  
44 AND THIRTEEN-A OF SUBDIVISION A OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT INCLUDE A  
45 50-CALIBER WEAPON AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION TWENTY-FOUR OF SECTION  
46 265.00 OF THIS ARTICLE.

47 S 15. Section 265.11 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 764 of  
48 the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

49 S 265.11 Criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON in the third  
50 degree.

51 A person is guilty of criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON  
52 in the third degree when such person is not authorized pursuant to law  
53 to possess a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON and such person unlawfully  
54 either:

(1) sells, exchanges, gives or disposes of a firearm [or], large capacity ammunition feeding device OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON to another person; or

(2) possesses a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON with the intent to sell it.

Criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON in the third degree is a class D felony.

S 16. Section 265.12 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 764 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

S 265.12 Criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON in the second degree.

A person is guilty of criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON in the second degree when such person:

(1) unlawfully sells, exchanges, gives or disposes of to another five or more firearms OR 50-CALIBER WEAPONS; or

(2) unlawfully sells, exchanges, gives or disposes of to another person or persons a total of five or more firearms OR 50-CALIBER WEAPONS in a period of not more than one year.

Criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON in the second degree is a class C felony.

S 17. Section 265.14 of the penal law, as added by chapter 175 of the laws of 1991 and the closing paragraph as amended by chapter 654 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

S 265.14 Criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON with the aid of a minor.

A person over the age of eighteen years of age is guilty of criminal sale of a [weapon] FIREARM OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON with the aid of a minor when a person under sixteen years of age knowingly and unlawfully sells, exchanges, gives or disposes of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON in violation of this article, and such person over the age of eighteen years of age, acting with the mental culpability required for the commission thereof, solicits, requests, commands, importunes or intentionally aids such person under sixteen years of age to engage in such conduct.

Criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON with the aid of a minor is a class C felony.

S 18. Section 265.13 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 764 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

S 265.13 Criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON in the first degree.

A person is guilty of criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON in the first degree when such person:

(1) unlawfully sells, exchanges, gives or disposes of to another ten or more firearms OR 50-CALIBER WEAPONS; or

(2) unlawfully sells, exchanges, gives or disposes of to another person or persons a total of ten or more firearms OR 50-CALIBER WEAPONS in a period of not more than one year.

Criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON in the first degree is a class B felony.

S 19. Section 265.16 of the penal law, as added by chapter 600 of the laws of 1992 and the closing paragraph as amended by chapter 654 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

S 265.16 Criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON to a minor.

A person is guilty of criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON to a minor when he is not authorized pursuant to law to possess a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON and he unlawfully sells, exchanges, gives

1 or disposes of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON to another person who is  
2 or reasonably appears to be less than nineteen years of age who is not  
3 licensed pursuant to law to possess a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON.

4 Criminal sale of a firearm OR 50-CALIBER WEAPON to a minor is a class  
5 C felony.

6 S 20. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 55.05 of the  
7 penal law, as amended by chapter 276 of the laws of 1973, is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 [Felonies] EXCEPT FOR THE FELONIES DEFINED IN SECTIONS 265.45 AND  
10 265.46 OF THIS CHAPTER, FELONIES are classified, for the purpose of  
11 sentence, into five categories as follows:

12 S 21. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 55.10 of the penal  
13 law, as amended by chapter 276 of the laws of 1973, is amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 (a) [The] EXCEPT FOR THE FELONIES DEFINED IN SECTIONS 265.45 AND  
16 265.46 OF THIS CHAPTER, THE particular classification or subclassifica-  
17 tion of each felony defined in this chapter is expressly designated in  
18 the section or article defining it.

19 S 22. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 231 to read  
20 as follows:

21 S 231. COMPLIANCE WITH THE BAN ON THE SALE, POSSESSION OR USE OF  
22 50-CALIBER WEAPONS. 1. FROM WITHIN AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED THEREFOR, THE  
23 DIVISION OF STATE POLICE SHALL TAKE SUCH ACTION AS IS NECESSARY TO  
24 IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM WHEREBY PERSONS, INCLUDING DEALERS OF FIREARMS, IN  
25 LAWFUL POSSESSION OF 50-CALIBER WEAPONS MAY BRING THEMSELVES INTO  
26 COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE PENAL LAW WHICH BANS THE SALE,  
27 POSSESSION OR USE OF SUCH WEAPONS.

28 2. WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, ANY  
29 LICENSED FIREARM DEALER WHO HAS IN HIS OR HER POSSESSION A NEW 50-CALI-  
30 BER WEAPON SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RETURN SUCH WEAPON TO THE DISTRIBUTOR OR  
31 MANUFACTURER, AND SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A FULL REFUND, OR CREDIT, IN AN  
32 AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE PURCHASE PRICE OF SUCH WEAPON. IN ANY CASE WHERE A  
33 DISTRIBUTOR OR MANUFACTURER FAILS OR REFUSES TO SO REFUND OR CREDIT SUCH  
34 DEALER, THE DEALER SHALL NOTIFY THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE, AND IT  
35 SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SO THAT HE OR SHE MAY  
36 INTERCEDE AND TAKE SUCH ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE DEALER TO SECURE SUCH  
37 REFUND OR CREDIT.

38 3. WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, ANY  
39 PERSON, INCLUDING A LICENSED FIREARM DEALER, WHO HAS IN HIS OR HER LEGAL  
40 POSSESSION A USED 50-CALIBER WEAPON SHALL PERSONALLY DELIVER SUCH WEAPON  
41 TO THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE, AND UPON TRANSFERRING OWNERSHIP AND  
42 POSSESSION TO A DULY DESIGNATED OFFICER THEREOF, SHALL BE ENTITLED TO  
43 RECEIVE PAYMENT IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF SUCH  
44 WEAPON, BUT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

45 4. THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE SHALL TAKE SUCH ACTION, INCLUDING A  
46 PUBLIC CAMPAIGN USING THE PRINT MEDIA, TELEVISION, RADIO OR OTHER MEANS  
47 TO NOTIFY PERSONS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN THIS  
48 SECTION.

49 S 23. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that  
50 sections one through twenty-one of this act shall take effect on the  
51 thirtieth day after this act shall have become a law; and provided,  
52 further, that those sections of this act which provide that it shall be  
53 unlawful to sell, exchange, give or dispose of a 50-caliber weapon shall  
54 take effect with respect to a gunsmith or dealer in firearms on the  
55 fifth day after this act shall have become a law.