

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2437

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 24, 2019

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- 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 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 § 2. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "50  
9 Caliber Threat Reduction Act".

10 § 3. Section 265.00 of the penal law is amended by adding a new subdi-  
11 vision 26 to read as follows:

12 26. "50 caliber weapon" means:

13 (a) any rifle capable of firing a center-fire cartridge:

14 (i) of a caliber of 50 or greater, which shall include any metric  
15 equivalent of 50 caliber or greater; or

16 (ii) that is capable of firing a projectile that attains a muzzle  
17 energy of twelve thousand foot-pounds or greater in any combination of  
18 bullet, propellant, case, or primer; or

19 (iii) any copy or duplicate of any such weapon that is capable of  
20 firing a projectile that attains a muzzle energy of twelve thousand  
21 foot-pounds or greater regardless of caliber;

22 (b) any rifle capable of firing a center-fire cartridge defined in  
23 paragraph (a) of this subdivision, possessed prior to the effective date  
24 of this subdivision;

25 (c) provided, however, that such term does not include:

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

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1 (i) any weapon capable of firing a center-fire cartridge that has been  
2 rendered permanently inoperable;

3 (ii) any weapon capable of firing a center-fire cartridge that is an  
4 antique firearm as defined in clause sixteen of paragraph (a) of section  
5 nine hundred twenty-one of title eighteen of the United States code;

6 (iii) any weapon validly registered pursuant to subdivision eighteen  
7 of section 400.00 of this chapter. Such weapons shall be subject to the  
8 provisions of paragraph (d) of this subdivision;

9 (iv) any weapon that was manufactured at least fifty years prior to  
10 the current date, but not including replicas thereof, that is validly  
11 registered pursuant to subdivision eighteen of section 400.00 of this  
12 chapter;

13 (v) any muzzle-loading rifle or shotgun with a rifled bore.

14 (d) Any weapon defined in paragraph (b) of this subdivision may only  
15 be sold to, exchanged with or disposed of to a purchaser authorized to  
16 possess such weapons or to an individual or entity outside of the state  
17 provided that any such transfer to an individual or entity outside of  
18 the state must be reported to the entity wherein the weapon is regis-  
19 tered within seventy-two hours of such transfer. An individual who  
20 transfers any such weapon to an individual inside New York state or  
21 without complying with the provisions of this paragraph shall be guilty  
22 of a class A misdemeanor unless transferred within one year of the  
23 effective date of this subdivision.

24 § 4. Section 400.00 of the penal law is amended by adding two new  
25 subdivisions 18 and 19 to read as follows:

26 18. Registration of 50 caliber weapons. (a) An owner of a weapon  
27 defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision twenty-six of section 265.00 of  
28 this chapter, possessed before the effective date of this subdivision,  
29 must make an application to register such weapon with the superintendent  
30 of state police, in the manner provided by the superintendent, or by  
31 amending a license issued pursuant to this section within one year of  
32 the effective date of this subdivision except any weapon defined under  
33 subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (c) of subdivision twenty-six of section  
34 265.00 of this chapter transferred into the state may be registered at  
35 any time, provided such weapons are registered within thirty days of  
36 their transfer into the state. Registration information shall include  
37 the registrant's name, date of birth, gender, race, residential address,  
38 social security number and description of each weapon being registered.  
39 A registration of any weapon defined under subparagraph (iv) of para-  
40 graph (c) of subdivision twenty-six of section 265.00 of this chapter  
41 shall be transferable, provided that the seller notifies the state  
42 police within seventy-two hours of the transfer and the buyer provides  
43 the state police with information sufficient to constitute a registra-  
44 tion under this section. Such registration shall not be valid if such  
45 registrant is prohibited or becomes prohibited from possessing a firearm  
46 pursuant to state or federal law. The superintendent shall determine  
47 whether such registrant is prohibited from possessing a firearm under  
48 state or federal law. Such check shall be limited to determining whether  
49 the factors in paragraph (g) of section nine hundred twenty-two of title  
50 eighteen of the United States code apply or whether a registrant has  
51 been convicted of a serious offense as defined in subdivision seventeen  
52 of section 265.00 of this chapter, so as to prohibit such registrant  
53 from possessing a firearm, and whether a report has been issued pursuant  
54 to section 9.46 of the mental hygiene law. All registrants shall recer-  
55 tify to the division of state police every five years thereafter. Fail-  
56 ure to recertify shall result in a revocation of such registration.

1 (b) Notwithstanding any inconsistent provisions of paragraph (a) of  
2 this subdivision, an owner of a 50 caliber weapon as defined in subdivi-  
3 sion twenty-six of section 265.00 of this chapter, who is a qualified  
4 retired New York or federal law enforcement officer as defined in subdivi-  
5 sion twenty-five of section 265.00 of this chapter, where such weapon  
6 was issued to or purchased by such officer prior to retirement and in  
7 the course of his or her official duties, and for which such officer was  
8 qualified by the agency that employed such officer within twelve months  
9 prior to his or her retirement, must register such weapon within sixty  
10 days of retirement.

11 (c) The superintendent of state police shall create and maintain a "50  
12 caliber weapons" page or section on the existing internet website,  
13 created pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision sixteen-a of this  
14 section, to educate the public as to which 50 caliber weapons are ille-  
15 gal as a result of the enactment of this subdivision, as well as such 50  
16 caliber weapons which are illegal pursuant to article two hundred  
17 sixty-five of this chapter. Such website shall contain information to  
18 assist the public in recognizing the relevant features proscribed by  
19 such article two hundred sixty-five, as well as which make and model of  
20 weapons require registration.

21 (d) A person who knowingly fails to apply to register such weapon, as  
22 required by this section, within one year of the effective date of this  
23 subdivision shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor and such person who  
24 unknowingly fails to validly register such weapon within such one year  
25 period shall be given a warning by an appropriate law enforcement  
26 authority about such failure and given thirty days in which to apply to  
27 register such weapon or to surrender it. A failure to apply or surrender  
28 such weapon within such thirty-day period shall result in such weapon  
29 being removed by an appropriate law enforcement authority and declared a  
30 nuisance.

31 (e) The cost of the software, programming and interface required to  
32 transmit any record that must be electronically transmitted by the deal-  
33 er or licensing officer to the division of state police pursuant to this  
34 chapter shall be borne by the state.

35 19. Applicability of section. The provisions of article two hundred  
36 sixty-five of this chapter relating to illegal possession of a firearm,  
37 shall not apply to an offense which also constitutes a violation of this  
38 section by a person holding an otherwise valid license under the  
39 provisions of this section and such offense shall only be punishable as  
40 a class A misdemeanor pursuant to this section. In addition, the  
41 provisions of such article two hundred sixty-five shall not apply to the  
42 possession of a firearm in a place not authorized by law, by a person  
43 who holds an otherwise valid license or possession of a firearm by a  
44 person within a one year period after the stated expiration date of an  
45 otherwise valid license which has not been previously cancelled or  
46 revoked shall only be punishable as a class A misdemeanor pursuant to  
47 this section.

48 § 5. Section 265.02 of the penal law is amended by adding a new subdivi-  
49 sion 11 to read as follows:

50 (11) Such person possesses a 50 caliber weapon.

51 § 6. Subdivision 3 of section 265.00 of the penal law, as amended by  
52 chapter 189 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

53 3. "Firearm" means (a) any pistol or revolver; or (b) a shotgun having  
54 one or more barrels less than eighteen inches in length; or (c) a rifle  
55 having one or more barrels less than sixteen inches in length; or (d)  
56 any weapon made from a shotgun or rifle whether by alteration, modifica-

1 tion, or otherwise if such weapon as altered, modified, or otherwise has  
2 an overall length of less than twenty-six inches; or (e) an assault  
3 weapon; or (f) a 50 caliber weapon. For the purpose of this subdivision  
4 the length of the barrel on a shotgun or rifle shall be determined by  
5 measuring the distance between the muzzle and the face of the bolt,  
6 breech, or breechlock when closed and when the shotgun or rifle is  
7 cocked; the overall length of a weapon made from a shotgun or rifle is  
8 the distance between the extreme ends of the weapon measured along a  
9 line parallel to the center line of the bore. Firearm does not include  
10 an antique firearm.

11 § 7. Subdivisions 1, 2, 3 and 6 of section 265.10 of the penal law,  
12 subdivisions 1 and 2 as amended by chapter 257 of the laws of 2008 and  
13 subdivisions 3 and 6 as amended by chapter 189 of the laws of 2000, are  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 1. Any person who manufactures or causes to be manufactured any  
16 machine-gun, assault weapon, 50 caliber weapon, large capacity ammuni-  
17 tion feeding device or disguised gun is guilty of a class D felony. Any  
18 person who manufactures or causes to be manufactured any switchblade  
19 knife, gravity knife, pilum ballistic knife, metal knuckle knife, billy,  
20 blackjack, bludgeon, plastic knuckles, metal knuckles, Kung Fu star,  
21 chuka stick, sandbag, sandclub or slungshot is guilty of a class A  
22 misdemeanor.

23 2. Any person who transports or ships any machine-gun, firearm silenc-  
24 er, assault weapon, 50 caliber weapon or large capacity ammunition feed-  
25 ing device or disguised gun, or who transports or ships as merchandise  
26 five or more firearms, is guilty of a class D felony. Any person who  
27 transports or ships as merchandise any firearm, other than an assault  
28 weapon or 50 caliber weapon, switchblade knife, gravity knife, pilum  
29 ballistic knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, plastic knuckles, metal  
30 knuckles, Kung Fu star, chuka stick, sandbag or slungshot is guilty of a  
31 class A misdemeanor.

32 3. Any person who disposes of any machine-gun, assault weapon, 50  
33 caliber weapon, large capacity ammunition feeding device or firearm  
34 silencer is guilty of a class D felony. Any person who knowingly buys,  
35 receives, disposes of, or conceals a machine-gun, 50 caliber weapon,  
36 firearm, large capacity ammunition feeding device, rifle or shotgun  
37 which has been defaced for the purpose of concealment or prevention of  
38 the detection of a crime or misrepresenting the identity of such  
39 machine-gun, 50 caliber weapon, firearm, large capacity ammunition feed-  
40 ing device, rifle or shotgun is guilty of a class D felony.

41 6. Any person who wilfully defaces any machine-gun, 50 caliber weapon,  
42 large capacity ammunition feeding device or firearm is guilty of a class  
43 D felony.

44 § 8. Paragraph 8 of subdivision a of section 265.20 of the penal law,  
45 as amended by chapter 476 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as  
46 follows:

47 8. The manufacturer of machine-guns, firearm silencers, assault weap-  
48 ons, large capacity ammunition feeding devices, 50 caliber weapons,  
49 disguised guns, pilum ballistic knives, switchblade or gravity knives,  
50 billies or blackjacks as merchandise, or as a transferee recipient of  
51 the same for repair, lawful distribution or research and development,  
52 and the disposal and shipment thereof direct to a regularly constituted  
53 or appointed state or municipal police department, sheriff, police offi-  
54 cer or other peace officer, or to a state prison, penitentiary, work-  
55 house, county jail or other institution for the detention of persons  
56 convicted or accused of crime or held as witnesses in criminal cases, or

1 to the military service of this state or of the United States; or for  
2 the repair and return of the same to the lawful possessor or for  
3 research and development.

4 § 9. Section 265.20 of the penal law is amended by adding a new subdi-  
5 vision f to read as follows:

6 f. The terms "pistol," "revolver," "rifle," and "shotgun" as used in  
7 paragraphs three through five, seven through seven-b, twelve, thirteen  
8 and thirteen-a of subdivision a of this section shall not include a 50  
9 caliber weapon as defined in subdivision twenty-six of section 265.00 of  
10 this article.

11 § 10. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 233 to read  
12 as follows:

13 § 233. Compliance with the ban on the sale, possession or use of 50  
14 caliber weapons. 1. From within amounts appropriated therefor, the  
15 division of state police shall take such action as is necessary to  
16 implement a program whereby persons, including dealers of firearms, in  
17 lawful possession of 50 caliber weapons may bring themselves into  
18 compliance with the provisions of the penal law which bans the sale,  
19 possession or use of such weapons.

20 2. Within thirty days of the effective date of this section, any  
21 licensed firearm dealer who has in his or her possession a new 50 cali-  
22 ber weapon shall be entitled to return such weapon to the distributor or  
23 manufacturer, and shall be entitled to a full refund, or credit, in an  
24 amount equal to the purchase price of such weapon. In any case where a  
25 distributor or manufacturer fails or refuses to so refund or credit such  
26 dealer, the dealer shall notify the division of state police, and it  
27 shall immediately notify the attorney general so that he or she may  
28 intercede and take such actions on behalf of the dealer to secure such  
29 refund or credit.

30 3. Within thirty days of the effective date of this section, any  
31 person, including a licensed firearm dealer, who has in his or her legal  
32 possession a used 50 caliber weapon shall personally deliver such weapon  
33 to the division of state police, and upon transferring ownership and  
34 possession to a duly designated officer thereof, shall be entitled to  
35 receive payment in an amount equal to the fair market value of such  
36 weapon, but not to exceed eight thousand five hundred dollars.

37 4. The division of state police shall take such action, including a  
38 public campaign using the print media, television, radio or other means  
39 to notify persons of the existence of the program established in this  
40 section.

41 § 11. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that  
42 sections one through nine of this act shall take effect on the thirtieth  
43 day after this act shall have become a law.