

Summary of State Gun Laws

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Issue

Summarize Connecticut's gun laws. (This report updates OLR Report [2013-R-0001](#).)

Summary

The Connecticut Constitution ([Article First, § 15](#)) gives every citizen the right to bear arms in defense of himself or herself and the state. For regulatory purposes, state law designates four types of firearms: handguns (pistols and revolvers), long guns (rifles and shotguns), assault weapons, and machine guns. The degree of regulation depends on the type of firearm and, for sales and transfers, whether they are being conducted by federal firearms licensed gun dealers or by private sellers not required to be licensed. Certain categories of people may not legally possess firearms or get credentials to carry them.

With few exceptions, (1) anyone acquiring a handgun in Connecticut, whether from a federally licensed gun dealer or private seller, must have an eligibility certificate or a permit to sell or carry handguns and (2) anyone carrying a handgun must have a permit to carry handguns. No permit or certificate is required to possess lawfully acquired handguns in one's home or at one's place of business.

Anyone buying or otherwise acquiring a handgun in Connecticut, including at a gun show, or applying for a gun permit or eligibility certificate must follow prescribed procedures and meet certain statutory criteria (e.g., passing criminal history checks and being deemed suitable). The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) must authorize all handgun transfers, whether by licensed dealers or private sellers. And applicants for a gun permit or eligibility certificate must pass a DESPP-approved course on handgun safety and use.

With certain exceptions, anyone acquiring a long gun in Connecticut must present a valid long gun eligibility certificate, handgun eligibility certificate, handgun permit, or gun dealer's permit. The law does not require a permit or other credential to carry long guns. Long gun sales and transfers generally must conform to specified state procedures (e.g., criminal history checks). The procedures differ in some respects for gun dealers versus other sellers.

State law generally requires anyone buying ammunition to have an ammunition certificate or a state-issued gun credential and be at least age 18. Additionally, with exceptions, the law prohibits selling, buying, or possessing large capacity magazines (LCM) unless the owner lawfully possessed the magazine before the ban took effect and declared them to DESPP. Generally, LCMs are magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

With minor exceptions, state law prohibits giving an assault weapon to anyone; distributing, transporting, or importing an assault weapon; or keeping, offering, or exposing any such weapon for sale. It also, with minor exceptions, prohibits possession of an assault weapon unless the owner lawfully possessed the weapon before the ban took effect and obtained a certificate of possession from DESPP for it (in effect, registered the weapon).

Machine guns are legal if duly registered with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and DESPP. It is illegal to use them for offensive or aggressive purposes, as defined in law, or to transfer them to anyone under age 16.

Federal law contains a court procedure for restoring firearm privileges lost because of a federal commitment or adjudication; state law contains a similar procedure for restoring privileges lost because of a state adjudication or commitment.

Gun dealers must be federally licensed and if they sell handguns, they must obtain a local permit to sell them. They must follow specified procedures when selling firearms and meet other criteria in law.

The law, with few exceptions, prohibits carrying firearms at certain locations, such as on school property or in any building where either chamber of the legislature is located or where the legislature is holding a public hearing or meeting.

The law requires people to store loaded firearms in their homes in a way that minors under age 18 do not have unauthorized access to them. It prohibits transferring handguns to minors under age 21, except as authorized for temporary use at firing or shooting ranges. Additionally, the law

generally prohibits storing or keeping a handgun in an unattended motor vehicle if the firearm is not in the trunk, a locked safe, or a locked glove box.

The law generally makes individuals subject to certain civil orders of protection ineligible (1) for gun permits or firearms eligibility certificates and (2) to possess firearms and ammunition. By law, the DESPP commissioner must follow a specific process to reinstate revoked credentials and return firearms and ammunitions when the civil protection order expires.

Under limited circumstances and specified procedures, law enforcement officials may get warrants and seize firearms from people posing an imminent risk of harming themselves or someone else, and a court may order the firearms held for up to one year.

In addition to the topics mentioned above, state law also regulates other gun-related matters. For example, recent laws set restrictions on bump stocks and "ghost guns."

In a number of areas, there are related federal laws not discussed in this report.

Please refer to Table 4 at the end of the report for a description of firearm offenses and penalties and Table 5 for the penalties for various classes of offenses.

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Handguns

Pistols and revolvers are usually referred to as handguns. The law defines “pistol” and “revolver” as any firearm having a barrel less than 12 inches long ([CGS § 29-27](#)). The law regulates handgun sales by licensed gun dealers and private sellers, irrespective of where the transaction occurs. The provisions generally do not apply to antique firearms ([CGS § 29-33\(f\)](#)).

Permit Needed to Sell Handguns over Certain Limit

Federal law requires anyone in the business of selling firearms to have a federal firearms license. Under state law, federally licensed gun dealers who sell handguns must also have a local permit (i.e., a dealer’s permit) to sell handguns issued by police chiefs (or borough wardens or first selectmen), as must anyone who sells 10 or more handguns in a calendar year ([CGS § 29-28\(a\)](#)). To get the permit, the applicant must hold a valid eligibility certificate or gun permit and generally submit documentation showing that the premises where the handguns will be sold complies with local zoning requirements ([CGS § 29-28\(a\)](#)).

The fee to get and renew the dealer’s permit is \$200 ([CGS § 29-30\(a\)](#)). (The law does not specify the validity period. But in practice, it is five years.)

Permit Required to Carry Handguns

With minor exceptions discussed below, anyone carrying handguns in Connecticut must have a gun permit and carry it upon his or her person when carrying a handgun ([CGS § 29-35](#)). The gun permit is issued under a two-part process, with both municipal and state approval.

The local official (police chief, borough warden, or first selectman) investigates applicants, including conducting a background check, and issues a temporary state permit, after which the State Police conducts state and national criminal history record checks on the applicants and issues the five-year state permit ([CGS §§ 29-28, 29-28a, & 29-29](#)). The law does not limit the number of handguns a permit holder may purchase or carry. No permit or other credential is required to possess lawfully acquired handguns in one’s home or at one’s place of business. And, according to the State Police, anyone who lawfully acquired a gun in another state and moves to Connecticut does not need a credential to keep the firearm at his or her home or place of business (see below at *Permit or Eligibility Certificate Required to Buy or Get Handguns*).

The fee for an initial gun permit is \$140, plus sufficient funds to pay for the FBI national criminal history record checks. The permit is valid for five years and renewable for \$70 ([CGS § 29-30](#)).

The law requires a permit holder to (1) carry the permit while carrying a handgun and (2) present his or her permit to a law enforcement officer who requests it for purposes of verifying the permit's validity or person's identity if the officer observes the person carrying a handgun and has reasonable suspicion of a crime ([CGS § 29-35\(b\)](#)). Failure to carry one's permit when carrying a handgun, or present the permit under the above circumstances, is an infraction punishable by a \$35 fine ([CGS § 29-37\(c\)](#)). Anyone carrying a handgun without having obtained a permit is guilty of a class D felony (see Table 5, Table on Penalties), with a one-year mandatory minimum sentence in the absence of mitigating circumstances. Any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited ([CGS § 29-37\(b\)](#)).

Exemptions. The law exempts the following from the permit requirement:

1. Connecticut parole and peace officers;
2. other states' parole or peace officers on official business;
3. federal marshals and law enforcement officers;
4. legally appointed and certified motor vehicle inspectors;
5. state or U.S. Armed Forces members on, or going to or from, duty; and
6. members of a military organization on parade or going to or from a place of assembly.

It also exempts anyone carrying a handgun:

1. in its original package from the point of purchase to his or her home or business place,
2. as merchandise,
3. for repair or when moving household goods,
4. to or from a testing range at a firearm permit-issuing authority's request, or
5. to a competition or exhibit under an out-of-state permit (see below) ([CGS § 29-35](#)).

Nonresidents. Any nonresident with a valid out-of-state gun permit may apply directly to the DESPP commissioner for a Connecticut gun permit ([CGS § 29-28\(f\)](#)).

Also, bona fide nonresidents permitted to possess and carry handguns in their home state may transport handguns in Connecticut without a Connecticut permit for the purpose of (1) participating in competitions, (2) participating in formal handgun training at a locally approved or permitted firing range or training facility, (3) taking the firearm for repair, or (4) attending meetings or exhibitions of organized gun collectors ([CGS § 29-35](#)). And nonresidents may transport handguns and other firearms without a Connecticut permit through Connecticut for lawful purposes in accordance with federal law if they are not otherwise prohibited from shipping, transporting, receiving, or possessing guns and are transporting them between states where they can legally possess and carry them

([CGS § 29-38d](#)). These firearms must be unloaded and the firearm and any ammunition must not be readily or directly accessible to the passenger.

Permit or Eligibility Certificate Required to Buy or Get Handguns

Except for federal marshals and parole and peace officers, anyone acquiring a handgun in Connecticut must be a state resident (a federal requirement) and present a valid gun dealer's permit, handgun eligibility certificate, or handgun permit ([CGS § 29-33\(b\)](#); [18 U.S.C. §§ 922\(a\)\(3\), 922\(a\)\(5\), & 922\(b\)\(3\)](#); and [27 C.F.R. §§ 478.29a & 478.30](#)). DESPP issues the eligibility certificate that allows an individual to get handguns and keep them at his or her home or business place. It does not authorize the holder to carry handguns upon his or her person ([CGS § 29-36f](#)). To get the gun permit or eligibility certificate, an applicant must complete a DESPP-approved handgun safety and use course, pass state and national criminal history record checks, and meet other criteria discussed below ([CGS §§ 29-28\(b\) & -36f](#); see below at *People Barred From Possessing Handguns*). With regard to the permit, the local official (who issues the temporary state permit) must find that an applicant (1) wants the firearm for lawful purposes and (2) is a suitable person to get a permit. The law does not define suitability. The determination of suitability is left to the official's discretion ([CGS § 29-28\(b\)](#)).

The fee to get or renew an eligibility certificate is \$35. The certificate is valid for five years ([CGS § 29-36h\(a\)](#)).

Revocation

The DESPP commissioner may revoke any state or temporary state gun permit for cause. He must revoke the permit upon a permit holder's conviction of a felony or certain disqualifying misdemeanors or the occurrence of any other event that would disqualify the person from obtaining the permit (see below) ([CGS § 29-32](#)).

Likewise, the DESPP commissioner must revoke an eligibility certificate upon any occurrence that would disqualify the certificate holder ([CGS § 29-36i](#)).

Anyone who fails to surrender any revoked permit or certificate within five days of being notified is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. Permit and certificate holders may appeal any revocation to the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners (see below) ([CGS § 29-32b](#)).

Confidentiality of Gun Permit and Certificate Information

The name and address of anyone issued a gun permit, gun dealer's permit, or eligibility certificate are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. The information is disclosable

only to (1) law enforcement officials performing their duties, including employees of the U.S. Probation Office and parole officers within the Department of Correction (DOC); (2) handgun transferors seeking to verify the validity of gun permits or eligibility certificates, to the extent necessary; and (3) the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) commissioner to carry out specified statutes ([CGS §§ 29-28\(d\), 29-36g, & 17a-500](#)).

People Barred From Possessing Handguns or Getting Credentials

State law bars certain categories of people from acquiring, possessing, or carrying handguns or getting the credentials to acquire, possess, or carry them ([CGS §§ 53a-217c, 29-28\(b\), & 29-36f](#)). It requires gun owners to surrender their handguns to DESPP (or municipal police on DESPP's behalf) or transfer them to someone eligible after the occurrence of any event that makes them ineligible to possess handguns or other firearms. People who become ineligible because they are the subject of a restraining or protective order may transfer the firearms to licensed gun dealers or to the DESPP commissioner (or municipal police on DESPP's behalf) ([CGS § 29-36k](#)). Illegal possession of a handgun is a class C felony with a two-year mandatory minimum sentence, and a \$5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record why it remits or reduces it ([CGS § 53a-217c](#)).

Illegal aliens are prohibited from possessing handguns or getting the credentials, as is anyone:

1. discharged from custody in the preceding 20 years after a finding of not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect;
2. confined by the probate court to a psychiatric hospital in the 60 months before applying for a permit or certificate;
3. voluntarily admitted on or after October 1, 2013, to a psychiatric hospital within the past six months that is not solely for alcohol- or drug-dependency;
4. convicted as delinquent of a serious juvenile offense ([CGS § 46b-120\(10\)](#));
5. who knows that he or she is the subject to a firearm seizure order issued after notice and a hearing;
6. prohibited by federal law from possessing or shipping firearms because he or she was adjudicated as a "mental defective" or committed to a mental institution (except in cases where the U.S. Treasury Department grants relief from this disability);
7. under a protective or restraining order for using, attempting, or threatening to use physical force, including ex parte orders; or
8. convicted of any felony or specified misdemeanors ([CGS §§ 29-28, 29-36f, & 53a-217c](#)).

As an exception to the prohibition in item 3 above, [PA 19-17](#), §§ 5 & 6, allows police officers who were voluntarily admitted to a psychiatric hospital for psychiatric treatment and whose weapons or ammunition were returned to use their work weapons or ammunition within six months of being admitted.

The disqualifying misdemeanors are convictions on or after October 1, 1994, of the following:

1. criminally negligent homicide (excluding deaths caused by motor vehicles) ([CGS § 53a-58](#));
2. third-degree assault ([CGS § 53a-61](#));
3. third-degree assault of an elderly, blind, disabled, or pregnant person or person with intellectual disability ([CGS § 53a-61a](#));
4. second-degree threatening ([CGS § 53a-62](#));
5. first-degree reckless endangerment ([CGS § 53a-63](#));
6. second-degree unlawful restraint ([CGS § 53a-96](#));
7. first-degree riot ([CGS § 53a-175](#));
8. second-degree riot ([CGS § 53a-176](#));
9. inciting to riot ([CGS § 53a-178](#));
10. second-degree stalking ([CGS § 53a-181d](#)); and
11. drug possession (including 0.5 ounces or more of marijuana) ([CGS § 21a-279\(c\)](#)).

Minimum Age for Possessing Handguns or Getting Credentials. State law does not explicitly set a minimum age for possessing handguns. But an age 21 requirement can conceivably be construed from other laws. The law requires applicants for a gun permit or eligibility certificate to be at least age 21 ([CGS §§ 29-28\(b\)\(10\)](#) & [29-36f\(a\)](#)). Also, it prohibits transferring handguns to people under age 21, except temporarily at a target shooting or firing range, if otherwise permitted by law and such use is under the immediate supervision of a person eligible to possess handguns. A violation is a class C felony, with a two-year mandatory minimum sentence, and a minimum \$5,000 fine unless the court states on the record why it remits or reduces it, plus forfeiture of any handguns found in the violator's possession ([CGS § 29-34\(b\)](#)).

Handgun Sale/Transfer Procedures

All handgun sales and transfers, whether by licensed dealers or unlicensed persons, must conform to specified state procedures, except those (1) between federally licensed gun dealers, importers,

and manufacturers or (2) involving antique handguns ([CGS §§ 29-33\(f\) & -33\(g\)](#)). The law also allows federal marshals, parole officers, or peace officers to purchase or receive a handgun without a permit or eligibility certificate ([CGS § 29-33\(b\)](#)).

Under the procedures, buyers must complete a DESPP firearms purchase application. DESPP must conduct a national instant criminal background check on applicants and make a reasonable effort to determine whether there is any reason the applicant may be disqualified from possessing a handgun. The commissioner must then either deny the transaction or approve it by issuing an authorization number for it.

Sellers or transferors must, among other things:

1. ensure that they know the person to whom they are providing the firearm or get appropriate identification (e.g., driver's license or passport);
2. document the transaction with State Police and appropriate local officials within 48 hours; and
3. keep the transaction records for law enforcement inspection (application for at least 20 years and receipt for at least five years).

When a buyer takes possession of the handgun, he or she must sign a receipt for it, providing (1) his or her name and address; (2) the firearm make, model, manufacturer's number, caliber, and general description; (3) the transfer date and authorization number; and (4) his or her permit or eligibility certificate number, if any ([CGS § 29-33\(e\)](#)).

The law prohibits handgun transfers in violation of its procedures or to people who (1) cannot legally possess handguns under state law or (2) do not have the appropriate credentials to obtain them ([CGS § 29-33\(a\) & \(b\)](#)). Any such illegal transfer is a class C felony with a two-year mandatory minimum sentence and a minimum \$5,000 fine unless the court states on the record why it remits or reduces it. It is a class B felony if the person transferring the firearm knows that it is stolen or that the manufacturer's number or serial number has been removed, defaced, altered, or obliterated ([CGS § 29-33\(i\)](#)). Such a transfer also carries a three-year mandatory minimum sentence and a minimum \$10,000 fine unless the court states on the record why it remits or reduces it.

Suspended Prosecution

The law allows the court to suspend prosecution of any violation in selling, delivering, or transferring a handgun if it determines the person charged with the violation will probably not offend in the future and has not previously been convicted or prosecuted of this type of violation ([CGS § 29-](#)

[33\(h\)](#)). Anyone for whom prosecution is suspended must agree to the tolling of any statute of limitations to the violation and waive his or her right to a speedy trial.

Handgun Safety Provisions

By law, all handguns sold in Connecticut, other than at wholesale, must be equipped with a reusable locking device constructed of material sufficiently strong to prevent it from being easily disabled. The lock must also have a mechanism accessible by key or by electronic or other mechanical accessory specific to the device to prevent unauthorized removal ([CGS § 29-33\(d\)](#)).

Another related law requires gun dealers to provide handgun buyers with a reusable handgun-locking device at the time of sale. They must give buyers the following written warning in block letters at least one inch high and post the warning conspicuously in block letters at least three inches high:

UNLAWFUL STORAGE OF A LOADED FIREARM MAY RESULT IN IMPRISONMENT OR FINE

Each violation by a dealer carries a fine of at least \$500 ([CGS § 29-37b](#)).

(For more information on gun storage laws, see below at *Safe Storage of Firearms*.)

Long Guns

Rifles and shotguns are referred to as long guns. A rifle is a weapon designed to be fired from the shoulder using a cartridge to fire a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger. A shotgun is a weapon designed to be fired from the shoulder using a shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shots or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger ([CGS § 53a-3\(16\) & \(17\)](#)).

Permit or Eligibility Certificate Required to Buy or Get Long Guns

With certain exceptions (see below), anyone acquiring a long gun in Connecticut must present a valid long gun eligibility certificate, handgun eligibility certificate, handgun permit, or gun dealer's permit ([CGS § 29-37a\(c\)](#)).

DESPP issues the long gun eligibility certificate. Applicants must complete a DESPP-approved firearm safety and use course, pass state and national criminal history record checks, and meet other criteria discussed below ([CGS §§ 29-37p & -37q](#); see below at *People Barred From Possessing Long Guns*).

The fee to get or renew the long gun eligibility certificate is \$35. The certificate is valid for five years ([CGS § 29-37r](#)).

The certificate holder's name and address are subject to similar confidentiality provisions as apply to the handgun credentials discussed above ([CGS § 29-37q\(d\)](#)). Also, similar to the credentials discussed above:

1. DESPP must revoke a long gun eligibility certificate upon any occurrence that would disqualify the certificate holder ([CGS § 29-37s\(a\)](#)),
2. anyone who fails to surrender their certificate within five days of being notified of revocation is guilty of a class A misdemeanor ([CGS § 29-37s\(b\)](#)), and
3. certificate holders may appeal any revocation to the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners ([CGS § 29-32b](#)).

People Barred From Possessing Long Guns

Generally, the same categories of people who are barred from possessing handguns or obtaining the required credentials (see above) are barred from possessing long guns or obtaining a long gun eligibility certificate. The minimum age to obtain the long gun certificate is 18, rather than 21 as for handgun credentials ([CGS § 29-37p](#)).

Unlike for handguns, it is not a crime under state law for illegal aliens to possess long guns (but such individuals are barred from obtaining a long gun certificate or other gun credentials needed to possess long guns). Also, while the list of disqualifying misdemeanors is the same for possessing long guns or handguns, the prohibition for long guns applies to convictions occurring on or after October 1, 2013 ([CGS § 53a-217](#)). For handguns, the prohibition applies to such convictions occurring on or after October 1, 1994 ([CGS § 53a-217c](#)).

The same criminal penalty applies to illegal possession of a long gun as for handguns. Thus, it is a class C felony with a two-year mandatory minimum prison term, and there is also a minimum \$5,000 fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it ([CGS § 53a-217\(b\)](#)).

Minimum Age for Possessing Long Guns or Getting Credentials

As with handguns, state law does not explicitly set a minimum age for possessing long guns. But the law bars gun dealers from selling, delivering, or transferring long guns to anyone under age 18. With some exceptions, the law also bars gun dealers from selling, delivering, or transferring to anyone under age 21 semiautomatic centerfire rifles that have or can accept magazines that can hold more than five rounds of ammunition. This stricter limitation does not apply to the transfer of

such firearms to the following for use in the discharge of their duties: (1) employees or members of local police departments, DESPP, or DOC or (2) state or U.S. Armed Forces members ([CGS § 29-37a\(b\)](#)).

A violation of either prohibition above is a class D felony, except it is a class B felony if the dealer knew that the firearm was stolen or that its serial number had been defaced. The court may, in some circumstances, suspend prosecution for a first minor violation ([CGS § 29-37a\(i\) & -37a\(j\)](#)).

The law also sets an age requirement for hunting licenses. A junior firearms hunting license may be issued to a child between ages 12 and 16 ([CGS § 26-27a](#)). (Federal law prohibits federally licensed gun dealers, manufacturers, or importers from selling or transferring long guns to people under age 18. But it does not address sales or transfers by non-licensees or possession by minors (18 U.S.C. § 922(b) and 27 C.F.R. § 478.99(b)(1)).

Long Gun Sales and Transfer Procedures

As with handguns, long gun sales and transfers, whether by licensed dealers or unlicensed persons, must conform to specified state procedures, with certain exceptions (see below). The procedures differ in some respects for gun dealers versus other sellers.

Sales and Transfers by Gun Dealers. With some exceptions, when gun dealers sell or transfer long guns, the transactions must conform to statutory procedures, the essential elements of which are similar to those governing handgun sales and transfers (see above). As is the case with handguns, (1) the dealer must document the transaction with DESPP and maintain copies of the record, (2) the buyer must undergo a national instant criminal background check, and (3) DESPP must authorize or deny the sale or transfer. The long gun must be unloaded and securely packaged when transferred. Unlike handguns, there is no explicit requirement for the dealer to know the buyer or obtain valid identification ([CGS § 29-37a\(d\)](#)).

Sales and Transfers by Private Sellers. The law generally requires nondealers, before transferring, selling, or delivering a long gun to anyone, to either (1) get a DESPP authorization number for the transaction or (2) ask a gun dealer to contact DESPP on his or her behalf and obtain a DESPP authorization number ([CGS § 29-37a\(e\)](#)).

If the transferor chooses the first option, he or she must follow the same procedures as apply to long gun transfers by gun dealers.

If the transferor chooses the second option, the gun dealer may charge for the service. The requestor must provide specified identifying information about the prospective transferee, and the prospective transferee must also show the dealer his or her state-issued gun credential. If DESPP determines that the prospective transferee is eligible to receive the firearm, the prospective transferor may sell, deliver, or transfer it; otherwise, he or she cannot do so.

When a transaction is completed under this second option, either the transferor or transferee must provide the following information:

1. the transferor's name, address, and gun permit or certificate number, if any;
2. the transferee's name, address, date and place of birth, and gun permit or certificate number, if any;
3. the sale, delivery, or transfer date;
4. the caliber, make, model, and serial number and a general description of the gun; and
5. the transaction authorization number.

The seller must transmit one copy of the sales receipt to DESPP and one to the transferee's police chief (or if none, the first selectman or borough warden) within 24 hours of the sale or transfer, and maintain one copy for at least five years ([CGS § 29-37a\(f\)](#)).

Exemptions. By law, the above procedures for long gun sales do not apply to sales or transfers (1) to federal firearm licensees (manufacturers, importers, or dealers) or (2) between such licensees. The law also exempts (1) curios or relics transferred to or between federally licensed firearm collectors or (2) antique firearms ([CGS § 29-37a\(h\)](#)).

The law additionally exempts several officials from the long gun credentialing requirements and long gun sale-related requirements. Specifically, the exemption applies to sales or transfers to the following:

1. sworn and certified police (local or state) and correction officers,
2. Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) inspectors or chief inspectors,
3. Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) salaried inspectors the DMV commissioner designates,
4. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) conservation or special conservation officers, and

5. locally appointed constables certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council who perform criminal law enforcement duties.

To be exempt, the official must provide a letter on the letterhead of the pertinent entity or agency authorizing the purchase. The letter must state that (1) the individual will use the weapon in the discharge of his or her official duties and (2) a records check shows that he or she has not been convicted of a family violence crime.

Finally, the law exempts military members and the following agencies and entities from the above requirements, without requiring that they submit such a letter: DESPP, DEEP, DOC, DMV, DCJ, local police departments, the state or U.S. Armed Forces, and nuclear power plants. For nuclear plants, the exemption applies when the long guns are for providing security at the facility, or any contractor or subcontractor providing such security ([CGS § 29-37a\(h\)](#)).

Penalty. Violating the above long gun sale and transfer requirements is generally a class D felony. It is a class B felony if the person transferring the firearm knows that it is stolen or that the manufacturer's number or serial number has been defaced. The court may, in some circumstances, suspend prosecution for a first minor violation ([CGS § 29-37a\(i\) & \(j\)](#)).

Sawed-Off Shotguns

It is a class D felony to own or possess sawed-off shotguns, defined as a shotgun with a barrel of less than 18 inches or an overall length of less than 26 inches ([CGS § 53a-211](#)). The ban does not apply to anyone otherwise permitted by state or federal law to own such firearms. (People may legally possess sawed-off shotguns under federal law if they obtain a federal tax stamp to possess them.)

Ammunition

State law generally requires anyone buying ammunition or ammunition magazines to have an ammunition certificate or a state-issued gun credential and be at least age 18 ([CGS § 29-38m](#)). It defines (1) "ammunition" as a loaded cartridge, consisting of a primed case, propellant, or projectile, designed for use in any firearm and (2) "magazine" as a firearm magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that accepts ammunition ([CGS § 29-38m\(a\)](#)).

Ammunition Certificate

The law generally prohibits the sale of ammunition or ammunition magazines to anyone unless the buyer presents to the seller:

1. a gun permit, gun dealer permit, or long gun or handgun eligibility certificate or
2. an ammunition certificate and a driver's license, passport, or other valid government-issued identification that contains his or her photograph and date of birth ([CGS § 29-38m\(c\)](#)).

Any violation is a class D felony ([CGS § 29-38m\(e\)](#)).

An applicant must ask the DESPP commissioner to issue the certificate and to conduct a state criminal history record check, using only the person's name and date of birth ([CGS § 29-38n\(a\)](#)).

After conducting the check, the commissioner must issue the certificate unless he determines, based on the results, that the person would be ineligible to get a long gun eligibility certificate (e.g., failure to complete a state-approved firearms safety course, a felony conviction, or subject to a restraining order regarding the use or threatened use of physical force). To be ineligible for an ammunition certificate based on a misdemeanor conviction, the conviction must be for a violation committed on or after July 1, 2013 ([CGS § 29-38n\(b\)](#)).

The certificate must contain an identification number and the certificate holder's name, address, date of birth, and signature ([CGS § 29-38n\(c\)](#)).

The fee to get or renew the ammunition certificate, like the handgun or long gun eligibility certificate, is \$35, and the certificate is valid for five years. The law stipulates that this fee is in addition to fees for the background check ([CGS § 29-38o\(a\)](#)).

Exemptions. These restrictions and requirements do not apply to sales to:

1. DESPP, DOC, DMV, DEEP, DCJ, police departments, and the state of U.S. military or naval forces;
2. a sworn and duly certified member of an organized police department, the State Police, DCJ inspectors, DMV commissioner-designated inspectors, DEEP commissioner-designated conservation officers, and locally appointed constables certified by POST who perform criminal law enforcement duties;
3. a member of the state or U.S. military or naval forces;
4. a nuclear facility licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or its contractors or subcontractors for the purpose of providing security services at the facility; or
5. a federally licensed firearms manufacturer, importer, dealer, or collector ([CGS § 29-38m\(d\)](#)).

Large Capacity Magazines (LCM)

With exceptions, the law makes it a class D felony to keep, offer, or expose LCMs for sale; transfer LCMs; or buy, distribute, or bring them into Connecticut ([CGS § 53-202w\(b\)](#)).

A “large capacity magazine” is any firearm magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that can hold, or can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of ammunition. It excludes:

1. feeding devices permanently altered so that they cannot hold more than 10 rounds,
2. .22 caliber tube ammunition feeding devices,
3. tubular magazines contained in a lever-action firearm, and
4. permanently inoperable magazines ([CGS § 53-202w\(a\)](#)).

Exemptions from the LCM Ban. In addition to the same governmental entities and individuals that are exempt from the ammunition requirements (see above), the following may also possess, purchase, or import LCMs:

1. anyone who is sworn and acting as police on behalf of an armored car service in the discharge of his or her official duties, and
2. in-state manufacturers of LCMs that manufacture or transport them in Connecticut to sell (a) to the above-mentioned exempt persons and entities or (b) out-of-state.

The following may also possess LCMs:

1. anyone who declared possession of the magazine;
2. executors or administrators of an estate that includes legally declared LCMs, which are disposed of as authorized by the probate court, if the disposition is otherwise permitted;
3. gun dealers; or
4. gunsmiths employed by gun dealers, who receive lawfully possessed LCMs for servicing or repair ([CGS § 53-202w\(e\)](#)).

The law generally prohibits transfers of LCMs, but it allows the transfer of (1) declared LCMs by bequest or intestate succession, (2) LCMs to DESPP or local police departments, and (3) LCMs to gun dealers ([CGS § 53-202w\(f\)](#)).

Prohibition and Penalty. The law, with exceptions, makes it a crime to possess an undeclared LCM. Anyone who possesses an undeclared LCM on or after January 1, 2014, that was lawfully

obtained before April 4, 2013, is guilty of (1) an infraction punishable by a \$90 fine for a first offense and (2) a class D felony for a subsequent offense. Anyone who possesses an undeclared LCM after January 1, 2014, that was obtained on or after April 4, 2013, is guilty of a class D felony ([CGS § 53-202w\(c\)](#)).

The court may, in some circumstances, suspend prosecution for a first minor violation ([CGS § 53-202w\(g\)](#)).

Declaring Possession of LCMs. The law allowed people who possessed LCMs before January 1, 2014, to keep them if they applied to declare them to the DESPP commissioner by January 1, 2014 ([CGS § 53-202x\(a\)](#)). “Lawful possession” means (1) actual and lawful possession or (2) constructive possession under a lawful purchase of a firearm that contains an LCM that was transacted before April 4, 2013, even if the firearm was delivered after that date ([CGS § 53-202w\(a\)](#)).

The law generally makes confidential the names and addresses of the people who declared LCM possession. The information is disclosable to (1) law enforcement agencies and U.S. probation officers to carry out their duties and (2) the DMHAS commissioner to carry out statutory duties pertaining to certain gun laws ([CGS § 53-202x\(c\)](#)).

Restrictions on Declared LCMs. The law limits where a person can possess a declared LCM. The person may possess it only:

1. at his or her residence;
2. at his or her business place or other property he or she owns, provided the LCM does not contain more than 10 bullets;
3. at a target range of a public or private club or organization organized to practice target shooting;
4. at a target range that holds a regulatory or business license for practicing target shooting;
5. at a licensed shooting club;
6. while transporting the LCM between any of the above-mentioned places or to a gun dealer, provided the LCM contains no more than 10 bullets and is transported in compliance with the law as it applies to transporting assault weapons; or
7. under a valid handgun permit, provided the LCM (a) is in a handgun lawfully possessed by the person before April 4, 2013, (b) does not extend more than one inch below the bottom of the pistol grip, and (c) contains no more than 10 bullets ([CGS § 53-202x\(f\)](#)).

A violation of the restrictions on the possession of declared LCMs is a class C misdemeanor ([CGS § 53-202x\(g\)](#)).

Nonresidents Who Move to Connecticut with LCMs. Anyone, except a member of the state or U.S. Armed Forces (servicemembers), who moves into Connecticut in lawful possession of an LCM has 90 days to either permanently disable it, sell it to a gun dealer, or take it out of state. Servicemembers transferred to Connecticut after January 1, 2014, in lawful possession of an LCM, may declare possession to DESPP within 90 days after their arrival ([CGS § 53-202x\(d\)](#)).

Dealer Responsibilities Regarding Transferred LCMs. The law requires gun dealers to whom an LCM is transferred to execute a certificate of transfer at the time of delivery ([CGS § 53-202x\(e\)](#)).

For transfers made on or after January 1, 2014, the dealer must mail or deliver the transfer certificates to DESPP. The certificate of transfer must contain:

1. the LCM sale or transfer date;
2. the gun dealer and transferor's name and address and their Social Security or driver's license numbers, if applicable;
3. the gun dealer's federal firearms license number; and
4. a description of the LCM.

The gun dealer must present his or her federal firearms license and seller's permit to the seller or transferor of the LCM for inspection at the time of the purchase or transfer. The commissioner must maintain a file of all certificates of transfer at his central office.

Armor Piercing Bullets

With some exceptions, it is a class A misdemeanor, or a class D felony for subsequent violations, to knowingly give to anyone; distribute; transport; bring into the state; or keep, offer, or expose for sale any armor-piercing .50 caliber bullets or incendiary .50 caliber bullets ([CGS § 53-202\(b\)](#)). It is also a class D felony to knowingly transport or carry a firearm with an armor piercing bullet or incendiary .50 caliber bullet loaded ([CGS § 53-202\(c\)](#)). In some circumstances, the court may suspend prosecution for a first minor violation ([CGS § 53-202\(e\)](#)).

“Armor-piercing bullets” are any bullets that:

1. are .50 caliber designed, held out by the manufacturer or distributor, or generally recognized as having the specialized capability to penetrate armor or bulletproof glass or
2. can be fired from a handgun of any caliber, that (a) have projectile or projectile cores made entirely from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium, excluding other trace substances or (b) are fully jacketed with a jacket weight of more than 25% of the projectile's total weight, larger than .22 caliber, and designed and intended for use in a firearm ([CGS § 53-202\(a\)](#)).

A bullet does not qualify as armor-piercing if it:

1. has projectile cores composed of soft material such as lead or zinc or their alloys,
2. has frangible projectiles designed primarily for sporting purposes,
3. has projectiles or projectile cores that the U. S. attorney general finds to be primarily intended for sporting or industrial purposes, or
4. does not meet federal law's definition of armor-piercing ammunition.

The law specifies that an armor-piercing bullet does not include a shotgun shell.

“Incendiary .50 caliber bullets” are .50 caliber bullets designed, held out by the manufacturer or distributor, or generally recognized as having a specialized capability to ignite upon impact.

Exemptions. Under the law, the prohibitions on armor-piercing or incendiary ammunition do not apply to:

1. sale to DESPP, DOC, police departments, or the state or U.S. military or naval forces for use in the discharge of their official duties;
2. a sworn and duly certified DESPP member or a police department when carrying such bullets;
3. disposition by an estate executor or administrator, as authorized by the probate court; or
4. transfer by bequest or intestate succession ([CGS § 53-202\(d\)](#)).

Ammunition Transfer by Ineligible People. As with firearms, the law requires owners to surrender their ammunition to DESPP or transfer it to someone eligible after the occurrence of any event that makes them ineligible to possess handguns or other firearms. People who become ineligible because they are the subject of a restraining or protective order may transfer the firearms only to licensed gun dealers ([CGS § 29-36k](#)).

Assault Weapons

Generally, state law prohibits anyone from having or selling an assault weapon. Specifically, and with minor exceptions, no one in Connecticut may:

1. give, distribute, transport, import, expose, keep, or sell an assault weapon ([CGS § 53-202b](#)) or
2. possess an assault weapon, unless he or she lawfully owned it before the applicable ban took effect and obtained a certificate of possession from DESPP for it (i.e., registered it) ([CGS §§ 53-202c](#) & [-202d](#)).

Definition

By law, an “assault weapon” is any selective-fire firearm capable of fully automatic, semiautomatic, or burst fire or any parts designed or intended to convert a firearm into an assault weapon or from which an assault weapon may be rapidly assembled if possessed or under the control of the same person. It also includes the specified semiautomatic firearms in Table 1.

Table 1: Statutorily Banned Semiautomatic Firearms

Algimec Agmi	Fabrique Nationale FN/FAL, FN/LAR, or FN/FNC	Scarab Skorpion
Armalite AR-180	FAMAS MAS 223	SIG 57 AMT and 500 series
Australian Automatic Arms SAP Pistol	Feather AT-9 and Mini-AT	Spectre Auto Carbine and Auto Pistol
Auto-Ordnance Thompson type	Federal XC-900 and XC-450	Springfield armory BM59, SAR-48 and G-3
Avtomat Kalashnikov AK-47 type	Franchi SPAS-12 and LAW-12	Sterling MK-6 and MK-7
Barrett Light-Fifty model 82A1	Galil AR and ARM	Steyr AUG
Beretta AR-70	Goncz High-Tech Carbine and High-Tech Long Pistol	Street Sweeper and Striker 12 revolving cylinder shotguns
Bushmaster Auto Rifle and Auto Pistol	Heckler & Koch HK-91, HK-93, HK-94, and SP-89	USAS-12
Calico models M- 900, M-950, and 100-P	Holmes MP-83	UZI Carbine, Mini-Carbine, and Pistol
Chartered Industries of Singapore SR-88	Intratec TEC-9 and Scorpion	Weaver Arms Nighthawk
Colt AR-15 and Sporter	Iver Johnson Enforcer model 3000	Wilkinson “Linda” Pistol
Daewoo K-1, K-2, Max-1, and Max-2	MAC-10, MAC-11, and MAC-11 Carbine type	
Encom MK-IV, MP-9, and MP-45	Ruger Mini-14/5F folding stock model only	

The law also bans the following semiautomatic centerfire rifles and pistols, or copies or duplicates with their capability in production on or before April 4, 2013 (see Tables 2 & 3).

Table 2: Semiautomatic Centerfire Rifles Banned by Name

AK-47 and -74	MAADI AK47
AKM	MAK90
AKS-74U	MISR
AR-10 and -15	NHM90 and NHM91
ARM	Norinco 56, 56S, 84S and 86S
Armalite M15	Olympic Arms AR-15, A1, CAR, PCR, K3B, K30R, K16, K48, K8, and K9 Rifles
Barrett M107A1 or REC7	Poly Technologies AKS and AK47
Beretta Storm	Remington Tactical Rifle Model 7615
Bushmaster Carbon 15, XM15, ACR Rifles, and MOE Rifles	Rock River Arms LAR-15 and LAR-47
Calico Liberty 50, 50 Tactical, 100, 100 Tactical, I, I Tactical, II and II Tactical Rifles	SA 85 or SA 93
Colt Match Target Rifles	SAR-8, SAR-4800, and SR9
Daewoo AR 100 and AR 110C	SIG Sauer 551-A1, 556, 516, 716, and M400 Rifles
Doublestar AR Rifles	SLG 95 or SLR 95 or 96
DPMS Tactical Rifles	Smith and Wesson M&P15 Rifles
Fabrique Nationale/FN 308 Match and L1A1 Sporter	TNW M230 and M2HB
Galil and Galil Sporter	Valmet M62S, M71S, and M78S
Hi-Point Carbine Rifles	Vector Arms AK-47 and UZI
HK USC	VEPR
HK-PSG-1	WASR-10
IZHMASH Saiga AK	Wilkinson Arms Linda Carbine
Kel-Tec Sub-2000, SU Rifles, and RFB	WUM

Table 3: Semiautomatic Pistols Banned by Name

American Spirit AR-15	Intratec TEC-DC9 and AB-10
Bushmaster Carbon 15	IO Inc. Hellpup AK-47

Table 3 (continued)

Calico Liberty III and III Tactical Pistols	I.O. Inc. PPS-43C
Chiappa Firearms Mfour-22	Kel-Tec PLR-16 Pistol
Centurion 39 AK	Masterpiece Arms MPA Pistols
Colefire Magnum	Mini-Draco AK-47
Doublestar Corporation AR	Olympic Arms AR-15
DPMS AR-15	Rock River Arms LAR 15
Draco AK-47	Sig Sauer P516 and P556 pistols
DSA SA58 PKP FAL	Thompson TA5 pistols
German Sport 522 PK	Velocity Arms VMA Pistols
HCR AK-47	Yugo Krebs Krink

The law also classifies the following as an “assault weapon:”

1. any IZHMAASH Saiga 12 shotguns or copies or duplicates with their capability in production on or before April 4, 2013;
2. a semiautomatic pistol or semiautomatic centerfire rifle that has a fixed magazine that can hold more than 10 rounds;
3. a semiautomatic centerfire rifle shorter than 30 inches;
4. a semiautomatic shotgun that can accept a detachable magazine (i.e., a magazine can be removed without disassembling the firearm);
5. a semiautomatic shotgun that has both (a) a folding or telescoping stock and (b) a grip or stock that allows someone to hold it with more than just the trigger finger directly below the firing action (e.g., pistol grip or thumbhole stock);
6. a shotgun with a revolving cylinder; and
7. rimfire weapons that met the two-feature test under the law prior to [PA 13-3 \(CGS § 53-202a\)](#).

The definition of an assault weapon also includes any semiautomatic centerfire rifle that can accept a detachable magazine and has at least one of the following features:

1. a folding or telescoping stock;

2. a grip or stock that allows someone to hold it with more than just the trigger finger directly below the firing action (e.g., pistol grip or thumbhole stock);
3. a forward pistol grip;
4. a flash suppressor; or
5. a grenade launcher or flare launcher.

The definition of an assault weapon also includes any semiautomatic pistol that can accept a detachable magazine and has at least one of the following features:

1. the ability to accept a detachable ammunition magazine that attaches at some location outside of the pistol grip;
2. a threaded barrel capable of accepting a flash suppressor, forward pistol grip, or silencer;
3. a barrel shroud that allows the shooter to fire the firearm without being burned, except a slide that encloses the barrel; or
4. a second hand grip.

The law excludes from the definition of an assault weapon, any parts or combination of parts of a lawfully possessed assault weapon, that are not assembled as an assault weapon, when possessed for purposes of servicing or repair, by a licensed gun dealer or gunsmith in the dealer's employ. The definition also does not include any firearm rendered permanently inoperable.

Prohibitions and Penalties

With some exceptions, the law makes it a:

1. class D felony with a mandatory minimum one-year prison term, to possess any of the banned weapons, or a class A misdemeanor for a first-time violator that presents proof that he or she owned the weapon on or before April 3, 2013 (or October 1, 1993, for certain older weapons) and otherwise kept the weapon under accordance with the law ([CGS § 53-202c\(a\)](#)); and
2. class C felony with a mandatory minimum two-year prison term to give, transfer, keep, sell, or distribute banned assault weapons ([CGS § 53-202b\(a\)\(1\)](#)).

In the case of transfers, sales, or gifts to people under age 18, the court must impose an additional six-year mandatory minimum, in addition and consecutive to the term for the underlying offense ([CGS § 53-202b\(a\)\(2\)](#)).

Exemptions

Generally, the law allows certain government agencies and officials; estate executors, including people inheriting banned weapons; people participating in Olympic target shooting; and gun manufacturers and dealers to possess assault weapons covered by the ban.

Governmental Entities. The law allows the same specified governmental entities and individuals that may lawfully possess LCMs (see above) to also lawfully sell, transfer, or possess assault weapons (see above) ([CGS §§ 53-202b\(b\)\(1\) & -202c\(b\)](#)). Any sale to one of these individuals must be done pursuant to a letter that authorizes the purchase and states that the assault weapon will be used in the discharge of official duties and that a records check indicates they have not been convicted of a crime of family violence ([CGS § 53-202b\(b\)](#)).

Estate Executors, Administrators, and Trusts. An executor or administrator of an estate that includes a registered assault weapon may sell, transfer, and possess the weapon at places specified in law or as the probate court authorizes. These weapons may also be transferred by bequest or intestate succession to a trust or from a trust to a beneficiary who is eligible to possess them ([CGS §§ 53-202b\(b\)\(2\), -202b\(b\)\(3\), & -202c\(e\)](#)).

Anyone who inherits a registered assault weapon has 90 days to apply to register it anew, sell it to a gun dealer, permanently disable it, or take it out of state ([CGS § 53-202d\(c\)](#)).

Olympic Pistols and Other Nonresident Exemptions. Sales of certain semiautomatic weapons, designated by the DESPP commissioner as designed expressly for use in target shooting events at Olympic Games, are also exempted. The buyer must sign a form indicating that he or she will use the pistol primarily for target shooting practice and events ([CGS §§ 53-202b\(b\)\(4\) & -202c\(f\)](#)).

Under certain circumstances and with certain requirements, the law allows a nonresident who has a certificate of possession to transport certain assault weapons into and through Connecticut to (1) attend any exhibition, display, or educational project or (2) participate in a collegiate, Olympic, or target pistol shooting competition in Connecticut ([CGS §§ 53-202d\(f\)\(7\)](#)).

Gun Manufacturer and Dealer Exemption. The law allows gun manufacturers to manufacture and transport assault weapons for sale (1) to exempt parties in Connecticut and (2) out-of-state ([CGS § 53-202i](#)). It allows gun dealers who lawfully possess assault weapons to (1) transfer the weapons between dealers or out-of-state, (2) display them at licensed gun shows, or (3) sell them to residents out of state. It also allows gun dealers to take possession of registered

weapons or transfer them for servicing or repair to a licensed gunsmith (1) in their employ or (2) under contract to provide gunsmithing services ([CGS § 53-202f](#)).

Pre-1994 Assault Rifles. The law exempts from the assault weapon transfer and registration requirements certain semiautomatic rifles and parts legally manufactured before September 13, 1994 ([CGS § 53-202m](#)).

Relinquishment of Assault Weapon to Law Enforcement Agency

The law allows an individual to arrange in advance to relinquish an assault weapon to a police department or DESPP ([CGS § 53-202e](#)).

Certificate of Possession

The law allows anyone who, before April 4, 2013, lawfully possessed one of the banned or other assault weapons subject to [PA 13-3](#) to apply to DESPP by January 1, 2014, for a certificate of possession for the weapon (in effect, register the weapon) ([CGS § 53-202d](#)). The certificate allows him or her to keep the firearm, provided he or she is eligible and otherwise complies with the law.

The law exempts from the registration requirement, law enforcement entities, sworn and duly certified enforcement officers, or nuclear power plants operating in Connecticut and their security contractors who lawfully use assault weapons for official duties. But servicemembers must register their weapons. If an officer buys an assault weapon for his or her official duties and then retires or is separated from service, the officer must apply and register the weapon within 90 days ([CGS §§ 53-202d\(a\)\(1\)\(B\) & -202d\(a\)\(2\)\(B\)](#)).

The certificate must contain a description of the firearm that identifies it uniquely, including all identification marks; the owner's full name, address, date of birth, and thumbprint; and any other information DESPP deems appropriate ([CGS § 53-202d\(a\)\(4\)](#)).

Servicemembers transferred to Connecticut in lawful possession of an assault weapon may apply to DESPP for a certificate within 90 days of arriving here ([CGS § 53-202d\(a\)\(2\)](#)). Anyone else who moves to Connecticut in lawful possession of an assault weapon has 90 days to permanently disable it, sell it to a gun dealer, or take it out of state ([CGS § 53-202d\(d\)](#)).

Anyone who registered an assault weapon banned before April 4, 2013, is deemed to have registered the weapon and is not required to obtain a separate certificate for it ([CGS § 53-202d\(a\)\(3\)](#)).

Under the law, the names and addresses are confidential and may be disclosed only to (1) law enforcement agencies, DOC parole officers, and employees of the U.S. Probation Office carrying out their duties and (2) the DMHAS commissioner to carry out certain firearm-related duties ([CGS § 53-202d\(a\)\(5\)](#)).

Standards Governing Registered Assault Weapons

Locations Where Registered Weapon May be Kept. The law allows those who possess a registered assault weapon to possess it only:

1. at his or her home, business place, other property he or she owns, or on someone else's property with the owner's permission;
2. at a target range of a public or private target shooting club;
3. at a licensed target shooting range or club;
4. while attending a firearms exhibition, display, or educational project sponsored, or approved by a law enforcement agency or nationally or state-recognized entity that fosters proficiency in, or promotes education about, firearms; or
5. while transporting the weapon, in compliance with pertinent law, between any of the above places, or to a gun dealer for servicing or repair ([CGS § 202d\(f\)](#)).

Temporary Transfer and Possession of Assault Weapons. The law allows the temporary possession and transfer of a registered assault weapon for certain out-of-state events, such as shooting competitions, exhibitions, displays or educational projects about firearms sponsored by, conducted under the auspices of, or approved by a law enforcement agency or a nationally or state-recognized entity that fosters proficiency in firearms use or promotes firearms education ([CGS § 53-202h](#)).

Machine Guns

State law defines a “machine gun” as any weapon, loaded or unloaded, that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot automatically more than one projectile by a single function of the trigger without manual reloading. This includes any part or combination of parts designed to assemble, or convert a weapon into, a machine gun ([CGS § 53-202\(a\)](#)).

With limited exceptions, the law requires anyone who owns a machine gun to register it with DESPP within 24 hours of acquiring it and annually thereafter on July 1. The application must show the firearm model and serial number; the applicant’s name, address, and occupation; and the person from whom and purpose for which the firearm was acquired ([CGS § 53-202\(g\)](#)).

Manufacturers must maintain a register of machine guns they manufacture or handle. For each such firearm, the register must show the (1) model and serial number; (2) date of manufacture, sale, loan, gift, delivery, or receipt; (3) name, address, and occupation of the transferor or transferee; and (4) purpose for which it was acquired. Manufacturers must make their registers and stock of guns, parts, and supplies available for law enforcement inspection. Violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000 ([CGS § 53-202\(f\)](#)).

The law prohibits the use of a machine gun for offensive or aggressive purposes. This purpose is presumed if empty or loaded projectiles are found in the machine gun's immediate vicinity or if the machine gun:

1. is located on premises not owned or rented as a bona fide business or permanent residence by the person who possesses it,
2. is possessed or used by an unnaturalized foreign born person,
3. is possessed or used by anyone convicted of certain violent crimes in state or federal court (e.g., sexual assault or 1st or 2nd degree assault), or
4. has been adapted to use any caliber projectile and is unregistered ([CGS § 53-202\(d\)](#)).

Using or possessing a machine gun for an offensive or aggressive purpose is punishable by imprisonment for five to 10 years, a maximum \$1,000 fine, or both ([CGS § 53-202\(c\)](#)). Using a machine gun while committing a specified violent crime is punishable by imprisonment for 10 to 20 years ([CGS § 53-202\(b\)](#)).

The law prohibits transferring, selling, or giving machine guns to minors under age 16, including temporarily transferring the weapon to them for use in target shooting or on a firing or shooting range or for any other purpose. A violation is punishable by imprisonment for five to 10 years, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both ([CGS § 53-202\(c\)](#)).

The above restrictions on machine guns do not apply to (1) the manufacture of machine guns for sale or transfer to the U.S. government, states, territories, or political subdivisions; (2) the possession of machine guns rendered inoperable by welding; or (3) except for the above registration requirement, machine guns acquired, transferred, or possessed under the National Firearms Act ([CGS § 53-202\(h\)](#)).

Board of Firearms Permit Examiners

The [Board of Firearms Permit Examiners](#) is a nine-member board that hears appeals of adverse decisions on gun permits and eligibility certificates ([CGS § 29-32b](#)). Anyone may appeal to the board if an official denies, limits, revokes, or refuses to provide a gun permit application or eligibility certificate. Within 10 days of receiving an appeal, the board must schedule a hearing. The law prohibits the board from rejecting appeals for lack of formality. A decision of the board may be appealed to the Superior Court under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act ([CGS § 29-32b\(f\)](#)). The board consists of one retired Superior Court judge, appointed by the chief court administrator, and eight members appointed by the governor: two of which must be members of the public and one nominee each from:

1. DESPP;
2. DMHAS;
3. Connecticut Police Chiefs Association;
4. DEEP;
5. Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association, Inc.; and
6. Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Inc.

At least one of the governor's appointments must be a Connecticut-licensed lawyer, who serves as the chair. Members are not paid but receive reasonable subsistence and travel allowances for performing their duties.

Gun Seller Regulations

In addition to the laws governing sales described above, a few other provisions regulate gun dealers.

Alarm System

Gun dealers must install burglar alarms on their premises where 10 or more firearms are stored and kept for sale. The alarm system must (1) be directly connected to the local police department or monitored by a central station and (2) activate upon unauthorized entry or system interruption ([CGS § 29-37d](#)).

Employees Selling Firearms

Employees selling firearms in a retail store that sells, but is not principally engaged in selling, firearms must:

1. be at least age 18;
2. have passed state and national criminal history record checks, which indicate they have not been convicted of a felony or any violation that would make them ineligible for a handgun eligibility certificate; and
3. have successfully completed a DESPP-approved course or test in firearm safety and statutory procedures relating to the sale of firearms.

An employer who violates this provision is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per day for each violation ([CGS § 29-37f](#)).

Limits on Where Gun Dealers May Sell Handguns

Gun dealers may sell handguns only in the room, store, or other place described in their permit to sell handguns, and they must display the permit where the handguns will be sold or offered or exposed for sale.

The seller must keep a record of each handgun sold in a book kept for that purpose, in a manner consistent with federal law. The record must be available for inspection upon the request of a sworn member of a local police department or the State Police or any investigator assigned to the statewide firearms trafficking task force ([CGS § 29-31](#)).

Violators are guilty of a class E felony and must forfeit any handguns in their possession ([CGS § 29-37](#)).

Civil Orders of Protection and Firearms

Types of Orders

This section applies to the following types of orders issued in a case involving physical force:

1. a civil restraining order (one available to family and household members);
2. a civil protection order (one available to victims of sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking who are not family or household members); and
3. a foreign order of protection (an injunction or order issued in another state) ([CGS §§ 46b-15, -15a, & -16a](#)).

Gun Permits and Firearms Eligibility Certificates

The law prohibits local officials from issuing temporary gun permits, and the DESPP commissioner from issuing a state gun permit or firearms eligibility certificate, to anyone subject to any of the

types of orders mentioned above in a case involving the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force ([CGS §§ 29-28 & -36f](#)).

Eligibility to Possess Firearms and Ammunitions

By law, in cases involving physical force, a person is ineligible to possess firearms and ammunition (1) when the court issues a civil restraining order or civil protection order against him or her after notice and a hearing; (2) upon receiving notice that an order was issued without a hearing (i.e., an ex parte order); or (3) if he or she is subject to a foreign order of protection ([CGS § 29-36k](#)).

Due Process for Ex Parte Orders. By law, the court must order a hearing within seven days after issuing an ex parte order when a civil restraining order application indicates that the respondent (the accused) holds a gun permit, possesses firearms or ammunition, or has a handgun or long gun eligibility certificate or an ammunition certificate.

Process must be served at least three days before the hearing date. If process is not properly served and the applicant requests it, the court must continue the ex parte order and schedule a new hearing. The court may do so up to 14 days from the original hearing date ([CGS § 46b-15](#)).

Transfer, Delivery, or Surrender of Firearms and Ammunition

A person must transfer, deliver, or surrender his or her firearms and ammunition within 24 hours of becoming ineligible to possess them after becoming subject to any of the orders described above, including an ex parte order. Such individuals must (1) transfer the firearms and ammunitions to a licensed firearms dealer or (2) deliver or surrender them to the commissioner or to a municipal police department on the DESPP commissioner's behalf ([CGS § 29-36k](#)). A violator is guilty of criminal possession of a firearm or ammunition, as applicable ([CGS §§ 29-36k, 53a-217, & 53a-217c](#)).

Reinstatement of Revoked Credentials

Under the law, the DESPP commissioner, at the request of a person who was subject to a civil restraining order, civil protection order, or a foreign order of protection and on verification of the order's expiration, must reinstate any gun or ammunition credential revoked as a result of such an order, if the person is otherwise eligible for the credential. Also, DESPP must reinstate a gun or ammunition credential it revoked based on an ex parte order if the order expires and the respondent, who is not otherwise disqualified, notifies DESPP and DESPP verifies the expiration ([CGS §§ 29-32, 29-37s, & 29-38p](#)).

Return of Firearms and Ammunition

By law, a person subject to a civil restraining order, civil protection order, or foreign order of protection, who has delivered or surrendered any pistol, revolver, or other firearm or ammunition to the DESPP commissioner or a local police department, may request the return of the firearm or ammunition when the order expires or is rescinded. The person making the request must provide notification of the order's expiration or rescission to the commissioner or department.

The commissioner or department must review the request within five business days after receiving the request. They must make any firearm or ammunition available for retrieval if they confirm that the order expired or was rescinded and that the requestor (1) is not otherwise disqualified from possessing the firearm or ammunition and (2) was legally entitled to possess the firearm or ammunition when it was delivered or surrendered ([CGS § 29-36k](#)).

Safe Storage of Firearms

Safe Storage in a Home

The law generally prohibits people from storing loaded or unloaded firearms on their premises if they know or reasonably should know that a minor (someone under age 18) is likely to gain access to them without permission ([CGS § 29-37i](#), as amended by [PA 19-5](#)). However, this prohibition does not apply if (1) the firearm is locked up or in a location that a reasonable person considers to be secure, or (2) the person carries it on his or her person or close enough so that he or she can readily retrieve it ([CGS § 29-37i](#)). If a minor obtains an unlawfully stored firearm and uses it to injure or kill himself or herself or someone else, the weapon's owner is strictly liable (i.e., regardless of intent) for damages. It is also a class D felony unless the minor obtained the firearm through unlawful entry ([CGS §§ 53a-217a & 52-571g](#)).

Any parent or guardian of a minor who knows that the child possesses a firearm and fails to make reasonable efforts to stop it is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. And, if the child causes the injury or death of someone else with the firearm, the parent or guardian is guilty of a class D felony ([CGS § 53-206f](#)).

[PA 19-5](#) specifies that this law applies to sawed-off shotguns, machine guns, rifles, shotguns, pistols, revolvers, or other weapons, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged.

Safe Storage in a Motor Vehicle

A new law, ([PA 19-7](#), codified at CGS § 29-38g) generally prohibits storing or keeping a handgun in an unattended motor vehicle unless it is in the trunk, a locked safe, or a locked glove box. A first offense is a class A misdemeanor and a subsequent offense is a class D felony (CGS § 29-38g(a)(1) & -38g(d)). The court may, in some circumstances, suspend prosecution for a first minor violation (CGS § 29-38g(c)).

Under the law, a motor vehicle is “unattended” if no owner, operator, or passenger who is at least age 21 is either inside the vehicle or close enough to prevent unauthorized access. A “trunk” is (1) the fully enclosed and locked main storage or luggage compartment of a motor vehicle that is not accessible from the passenger compartment or (2) a locked toolbox or utility kit attached to a pickup truck bed. It does not include the rear of a pickup truck, except as provided above; the rear of a hatchback, station-wagon-type automobile, or sport utility vehicle; or any compartment that has a window (CGS § 29-38g(a)(2)).

Exemptions. The law’s storage requirements do not apply to a pistol or revolver issued or possessed by the following entities:

1. police departments, the Department of Revenue Services, DCJ, DESPP, DOC, DMV, and DEEP; or
2. state or U.S. military or naval forces.

The requirements also do not apply to a handgun issued to or possessed by the following individuals for use in their official duties or when off-duty:

1. sworn members of a law enforcement unit,
2. DCJ inspectors or chief inspectors,
3. salaried motor vehicle inspectors designated by the DMV commissioner,
4. conservation or special conservation officers appointed by the DEEP commissioner, and
5. POST-certified constables appointed by a municipality’s chief executive authority to perform criminal law enforcement duties.

Additionally, the requirements do not apply to a pistol or revolver issued to or possessed by:

1. a member of the state or U.S. military or naval forces or

2. a nuclear facility licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to provide security services at the facility, or any contractor or subcontractor providing security services at the facility.

For any of the above exemptions, the handgun must be kept or stored in accordance with the issuing or possessing entity's policy for safely keeping or storing a pistol or revolver in a motor vehicle (CGS § 29-38g(b)).

Carrying Long Guns in Motor Vehicles. Another law requires long guns to be unloaded when being transported in a vehicle or snowmobile. A violation is a class D misdemeanor ([CGS § 53-205](#)). The provisions do not apply to members of the military while on duty or travelling to or from assignments or to enforcement officers, security guards, or other people employed to protect property while in the performance of their duties.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Restoration of Gun Rights

Federal law prohibits anyone who has been “adjudicated as a mental defective” or “committed to a mental institution” from shipping, transporting, receiving, or possessing firearms or ammunition, unless the person's firearm privileges are restored under a federally approved program.

State law contains a court procedure for restoring such privileges lost because of a state adjudication or commitment. The procedure is similar to the federal procedure governing federal adjudications or commitments. Anyone seeking to regain firearm privileges must petition the probate court for relief. The court must grant relief if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that (1) the petitioner will not likely act in a manner dangerous to public safety and (2) granting relief is not contrary to the public interest. The petitioner or DESPP may appeal the decision to the Superior Court ([CGS § 45a-100](#)).

Restriction on Carrying Firearms

Open versus Concealed Carrying of Handguns. Neither the permit to carry handguns nor state law specifies how handguns should be carried, i.e., concealed or openly.

Carrying Firearms on School Property. It is illegal, with some exceptions, to possess firearms on any public or private elementary or secondary school property or at any school-sponsored event knowing that one is not licensed or privileged to do so. A violation is a class D felony.

The law does not apply to otherwise lawful possession by peace officers carrying out their official duties or anyone:

1. using a firearm in a school-approved school program or school-sponsored activity;
2. who has an agreement with the school allowing the firearm; or
3. crossing school property with an unloaded firearm to gain access to land for hunting or other lawful purposes, as long as the local or regional board of education allows this entry ([CGS § 53a-217b](#), as amended by [PA 19-108](#), § 9).

Carrying Firearms in Legislative Buildings. The law, with minor exceptions, bars people from carrying loaded or unloaded firearms in any building (1) where either house of the General Assembly is located; (2) in which the office of any legislator or legislative officer, employee, or committee is located; or (3) where a legislative committee is holding a public hearing. The law exempts police officers, military personnel on official duty, and veterans serving as honor guards. A violation is a class D felony ([CGS § 2-1e\(c\)](#)).

Carrying Handguns where Prohibited. By law, a permit to carry handguns does not authorize the permit holder to carry handguns on any property where handguns are otherwise prohibited by law or by the person who owns or exercises control over the property ([CGS § 29-28\(e\)](#)).

Gun Seizure From People Posing Imminent Harm

The law allows any two police officers (or a state's attorney), under limited circumstances, to get warrants and seize guns from anyone who poses an imminent risk of injuring himself or herself or someone else. The officials may seek the warrant only after (1) conducting an independent investigation to establish probable cause and (2) determining that no reasonable alternative exists to avert the risk of harm.

In determining grounds and probable cause for issuing a warrant, the judge must consider any recent threat or violent act the person directed at himself or herself or others and recent acts of animal cruelty. In determining whether the threats or acts constitute probable cause to believe a risk of injury is imminent, the judge may consider, among other things, if the person:

1. recklessly used, displayed, or brandished a gun;
2. has a history of using, attempting, or threatening to use physical force against people;
3. was ever involuntarily confined to a psychiatric hospital;
4. abused alcohol; and

5. illegally used controlled substances.

If satisfied that probable cause exists and there is no reasonable alternative to prevent the person from causing imminent harm, the judge must issue the warrant. The judge must hold a hearing within 14 days after the seizure and order the police to hold the firearms for up to one year or return them ([CGS § 29-38c](#)).

Reports of Lost or Stolen Firearms

Lawful owners of any firearm lost or stolen must file a police report within 72 hours after they discover or should have discovered the loss or theft. The report must be made to the local police department for the town in which the loss or theft occurred or, in towns without an organized local police department, the State Police troop having jurisdiction. The receiving department or troop must forward a copy of the report to the DESPP commissioner.

A first-time unintentional failure to report by the deadline is an infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$90; a subsequent unintentional failure is a class C felony. Any intentional failure to report is a class B felony. The law specifies that a first-time violator does not lose the right to possess a gun permit ([CGS § 53-202g](#)).

Deadly Weapon Offender Registry

By law, anyone convicted, or found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect, of a deadly weapon offense (including various firearm-related offenses) and released into the community must register with DESPP within 14 calendar days after being released. The registry information is not a public record for purposes of the Freedom of Information Act. It is disclosable only as authorized by law.

The person must maintain the registration for five years. People required to register must do so within 20 calendar days after each anniversary date of the initial registration date. The court, before accepting a guilty or nolo contendere (no contest) plea for a deadly weapon offense, must inform the person of the registration consequences of the plea and determine that he or she fully understands them.

Failure to register and update one's status as required is a class D felony. It is also a class D felony for a registrant to fail to inform DESPP of a name or address change within five business days ([CGS §§ 54-280 to 54-280b](#)).

Bump Stocks

The law generally makes it a class D felony for anyone to sell, transfer, purchase, possess, use, or manufacture a “rate of fire enhancement” (e.g., a bump stock) ([CGS § 53-206g](#)). The law, among other things:

1. exempts licensed firearms manufacturers fulfilling military contracts;
2. provides a 90-day grace period for individuals who move into the state, or military personnel returning from deployments that began on or ran through October 1, 2018, to render their bump stock permanently inoperable, remove it from Connecticut, or surrender it to DESPP;
3. reduces the penalty to a class D misdemeanor for certain first-time offenders who possessed a rate of fire enhancement before July 1, 2019, and have a valid firearms permit or eligibility certificate;
4. gives the court specific discretion to suspend prosecution for violations not serious in nature ([CGS § 53-206g](#)); and
5. requires DESPP, through June 30, 2023, to include a notice of these provisions with each (a) permit to carry a handgun, eligibility certificate for a handgun, long gun eligibility certificate, and ammunition certificate issued and (b) expiration notice of any such permit or certificate ([CGS § 53-206h](#)).

A “rate of fire enhancement” is any device, component, part, combination of parts, attachment, or accessory that:

1. uses energy from a firearm’s recoil to generate a reciprocating action that causes repeated function of the trigger, including a bump stock;
2. repeatedly pulls a firearm’s trigger through the use of a crank, lever, or other part, including a trigger crank; or
3. causes a semiautomatic firearm to fire more than one round per operation of the trigger, where the trigger pull and reset constitute a single operation of the trigger, including a binary trigger system ([CGS § 53-206g\(c\)](#)).

For more information, see the OLR [Public Act Summary](#) for [PA 18-29](#).

Ghost Guns

A new law generally prohibits anyone from completing the manufacture of a firearm without subsequently obtaining and engraving or permanently affixing on it a unique serial number or other identification mark from DESPP (i.e., creating a “ghost gun”).

The new law also generally prohibits:

1. transferring “ghost guns,” except to law enforcement;
2. manufacturing a firearm from polymer plastic that is less detectible by a walk-through metal detector than a security exemplar (i.e., an object used to test and calibrate metal detectors);
3. aiding the manufacture of a firearm for certain people who are prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm;
4. purchasing, receiving, selling, delivering, or transferring an unfinished frame or lower receiver without an identification mark or unique serial number or satisfying certain other requirements; and
5. possessing an unfinished frame or lower receiver if the person is ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law.

Among other exceptions, the new law does not apply to (1) firearms manufactured by a federally licensed firearm manufacturer or (2) firearms manufactured before October 1, 2019, provided they are otherwise lawfully possessed.

Under the new law, the above prohibited actions are class C felonies, carrying a minimum two-year sentence. There is a \$5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for remitting or reducing it. Violators must forfeit any such firearms in their possession. The law allows the court, under certain circumstances, to suspend the prosecution of a person accused of committing any of the above prohibited acts ([PA 19-6](#), most provisions effective October 1, 2019).

For more information, see the OLR [Public Act Summary](#).

Gun Shows

By law, a gun show promoter must notify the police chief (or if none, the first selectman or borough warden) of the date, time, duration, and location of a gun show at least 30 days before it starts. This law defines a "gun show" as an event where two or more people offer or exhibit at least 50 guns for sale, transfer, or exchange to the public ([CGS § 29-37g](#)).

The law generally requires people selling or otherwise transferring any guns at gun shows to contact DESPP to verify the transferee's eligibility and get authorization numbers for the transfer ([CGS §§ 29-37g & -36l](#)).

Offenses and Penalties

Classification

Table 4 shows firearm offenses and penalties. Table 5 shows the penalties for various classes of offenses. The offenses are classified as follows:

1. transfer and purchase,
2. carrying,
3. use,
4. possession,
5. child endangerment,
6. assault weapon,
7. machine gun,
8. "straw man" and gun trafficking,
9. hunting, and
10. miscellaneous.

Some offenses are included in more than one category. For example, an offense involving the use of an assault weapon is included in both the "firearm use" category and "assault weapons" category.

Class A, B, and C Felonies and Mandatory Sentences

[CGS § 53-202j](#) imposes a mandatory minimum eight-year sentence on anyone who uses, threatens to use, displays, or purports to have an assault weapon while committing a class A, B, or C felony. [CGS § 53-202k](#) imposes a mandatory minimum five-year sentence on anyone who uses, threatens to use, displays, or purports to have a firearm other than an assault weapon while committing a class A, B, or C felony. In both cases, the sentence is in addition and consecutive to any imprisonment for the felony. The offenses in Table 4 subject to the additional sentence are marked with an asterisk.

Persistent Offenders

[CGS § 53a-40](#) authorizes the court to impose, under the persistent dangerous felony offender law, enhanced sentences based on previous convictions for certain crimes. Among the firearm offenses subject to the persistent dangerous felony provision are:

1. first- and second-degree kidnapping with a firearm,
2. first- and second-degree manslaughter with a firearm, and

3. third-degree sexual assault with a firearm.

Table 4: Firearm Offenses and Penalties

TRANSFER AND PURCHASE OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
29-28, 29-37	Sell handgun at retail without dealer permit	Class E felony and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited
29-31, 29-37	Sell handgun at retail to person who does not have appropriate identification; fail to display gun dealer permit and keep record book	Class E felony and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited
29-33(a), (i)	Sell or transfer handgun to a person prohibited from possessing it under 53a-217c (see above)	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-33(b), (i)	Buy or obtain handgun without valid credentials	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-33(c), (e), (i)	Sell or transfer handgun in violation of required procedures	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-33(d), (i)	Sell or transfer handgun, other than at wholesale, without trigger lock	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-33(i)	Sell or transfer handgun to a person prohibited from possessing it under 53a-217c (see above) or in violation of required procedures and knowing that it is stolen or that its serial or other identifying number is defaced	Class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$10,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-34	Provide false statement or false information in connection with the sale, purchase, or delivery of handgun	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited

Table 4 (continued)

TRANSFER AND PURCHASE OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
29-34	Sell or transfer handgun to anyone under age 21 (except temporarily at gun range)	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited
PA 19-6, § 2	Transfer a "ghost gun" to someone other than law enforcement	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any firearm found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
PA 19-6, § 5	Purchase, receive, sell, or transfer an unfinished frame or lower receiver without (1) an identification mark or unique serial number or (2) satisfying certain other requirements	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any unfinished frame or lower receiver found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
PA 19-6, § 5	Sell or transfer an unfinished frame or lower receiver in violation of law's requirements and knowing that it is stolen or that its serial or other identifying number is defaced	Class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$10,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any unfinished frame or lower receiver found in the violator's possession must be forfeited +
29-37a(b), (i)	Sell or transfer long gun at retail to anyone under age 18	Class D felony and any long gun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-37a(b), (i)	Sell or transfer at retail, to anyone under age 21, a semi-automatic centerfire rifle that accepts a capacity exceeding five rounds	Class D felony and any long gun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-37a(c), (i)	Buy or obtain long gun without valid credentials	Class D felony and any long gun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-37a(d), (i)	Sell or transfer long gun at retail in violation of required procedures, including sales to ineligible persons	Class D felony and any long gun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-37a(e), (f), (i)	Sell or transfer long gun by someone other than a gun dealer in violation of required procedures, including sales to ineligible persons	Class D felony and any long gun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-37a(j)	Sell or transfer long gun in violation of required procedures, including sales to ineligible persons, knowing that it is stolen or that its serial or other identifying number is defaced	Class B felony and any long gun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+

Table 4 (continued)

TRANSFER AND PURCHASE OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
29-37b	Sell handgun at retail without trigger lock and safety warning	At least \$500 fine for each violation
29-37e	Provide false statement or false information in connection with the sale, purchase, or delivery of long gun	Class D felony and any firearm found in the violator's possession must be forfeited
29-37f	Employ unauthorized person to sell firearms in certain retail establishments	Civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per day for each violation
29-37g(c)	Sell or transfer firearm at a gun show in violation of provisions of 29-36l	No penalty specified
29-38m(b)	Sell ammunition or ammunition magazine to a person under age 18	Class D felony
29-38m(c)	Sell ammunition or ammunition magazine to a person without valid credentials	Class D felony
53-202b	Sell or transfer assault weapon	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; additional six-year mandatory minimum for providing the weapon to minor under age 18
53-202l(b)	Sell armor piercing or incendiary .50 caliber ammunition	Class A misdemeanor (first violation); class D felony (subsequent violation)*
53-202w(b)	Transfer, offer for sale, or purchase a large capacity magazine	Class D felony*
53-206c	Sell facsimile firearm	Class B misdemeanor
53-206g	Sell, transfer, manufacture, or purchase a "rate of fire enhancement" (e.g., a bump stock)	Class D felony*
53a-8	Provide any firearm knowing that recipient intends to use it illegally	Fine and imprisonment as if provider were principal offender
CARRYING OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
2-1e(c)	Possess a firearm in a legislative chamber (unless exempt) or related areas (interfere with legislative process)	Class D felony
29-35(a), 29-37(b)	Carry handgun without gun permit	Class D felony; one-year mandatory minimum prison term in the absence of mitigating circumstances; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited
29-35(b), 29-37(c)	Carry handgun without gun permit on one's person or failure to show gun permit to police under specified circumstances	Infraction (\$35 fine)
29-38	Knowingly carry "unpermitted" handgun or unregistered machine gun in vehicle	Class D felony

Table 4 (continued)

CARRYING OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
29-161z	Carry any firearm on security guard duty without special DESPP gun permit	\$75 fine per offense
53-202l(c)	Carry or transport firearm with armor piercing bullet or incendiary .50 caliber bullet	Class D felony*
53-205	Carry loaded shotgun, rifle, or muzzleloader in vehicle or snowmobile	Class D misdemeanor
53-206c	Carry facsimile of firearm in threatening manner or brandish one in peace officer's presence	Class B misdemeanor
53-206d(a)	Carry any loaded firearm while intoxicated	Class B misdemeanor
53a-174	Bring any firearm without authorization into correctional institution	Class D felony
53a-174a	Possess or carry any firearm within correctional institution while incarcerated	Class B felony
53a-217b (as amended by PA 19-108 , § 9)	Possess any firearm on elementary or high school property or at school-sponsored activities knowing that one is not authorized to do so	Class D felony
FIREARM USE OFFENSES*		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
53-202(b)	Use machine gun while committing or attempting to commit certain violent crimes	10 to 20 years imprisonment (in addition to sentence for the crime)
53-202(c)	Use machine gun for offensive or aggressive purpose	Five to 10 years imprisonment, up to \$1,000 fine, or both (in addition to sentence for any underlying crime)
53-202j	Display, use, or threaten to use assault weapon while committing class A, B, or C felony	Eight-year mandatory minimum prison term in addition to the sentence for the underlying felony
53-202k	Commit A, B, or C felony armed, or purporting to be armed, with firearm other than assault weapon	Five-year mandatory minimum prison term in addition to the sentence for the underlying felony
53-203	Unlawful discharge of firearm	Class C misdemeanor
53-204	Discharge firearm from public highway	Fine of up to \$100
53-206c	Brandish facsimile of firearm in threatening manner or in peace officer's presence	Class B misdemeanor
53-206g	Use a "rate of fire enhancement" (e.g., a bump stock)	Class D felony*
53a-55a	1 st degree manslaughter with firearm	Class B felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term* (CGS § 53a-35a allows sentence of up to 40 years)

Table 4 (continued)

FIREARM USE OFFENSES*		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
53a-56a	2 nd degree manslaughter with firearm	Class C felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term*
53a-59	1 st degree assault with deadly weapon	Class B felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term or 10-year mandatory minimum if victim is under age 10 or a witness*
53a-60	2 nd degree assault with deadly weapon	Class D felony, or class C felony if the crime results in a serious injury*
53a-60a (as amended by PA 19-132 , § 4)	2 nd degree assault with firearm	Class D felony, or class C felony if the crime results in a serious injury*, with a one-year mandatory minimum prison term in either case
53a-60c	2 nd degree assault with firearm of elderly, blind, disabled, or pregnant person or person with intellectual disability	Class D felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-61	3 rd degree assault with deadly weapon (criminal negligence)	Class A misdemeanor with a mandatory one-year prison term
53a-61aa	1 st degree threatening (commits 2 nd degree threatening while armed with or purporting to be armed with any type of firearm)	Class D felony
53a-70a	1 st degree aggravated sexual assault with deadly weapon	Class B* or A* felony, depending on the victim's age (mandatory minimum five years to 20 years depending on certain factors)
53a-72b	3 rd degree sexual assault with firearm	Class C* or B* felony, depending on victim's age (two-year mandatory minimum, plus period of special parole, which together with imprisonment cannot be less than 10 years)
53a-92a	1 st degree kidnapping with firearm	Class A felony with 10-year mandatory minimum prison term*
53a-94a	2 nd degree kidnapping with firearm	Class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term*
53a-101	1 st degree burglary with deadly weapon	Class B felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term*
53a-102a	2 nd degree burglary with firearm	Class C felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term*
53a-103a	3 rd degree burglary with firearm	Class D felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-134	1 st degree robbery with firearm	Class B felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term*
53a-135	2 nd degree robbery with deadly weapon	Class C felony*
53a-216	Criminal use of a firearm	Class D felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term

Table 4 (continued)

FIREARM POSSESSION OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
2-1e(c)	Possess a firearm in a legislative chamber (unless exempt) or related areas (interfere with legislative process)	Class D felony
29-36k(a)	Fail to transfer, deliver, or surrender firearm after becoming ineligible to possess it	Penalty for illegal possession as applicable (see 53a-217 and 53a-217c below)
29-36k(b)	Failure to transfer, deliver, or surrender firearm after notice that person is subject to restraining or protective order	Penalty for illegal possession as applicable (see 53a-217 and 53a-217c below)
53-202(c)	Possess machine gun for offensive or aggressive purpose	Five to 10 years imprisonment, up to \$1,000 fine, or both (in addition to sentence for the crime)
53-202c	Illegally possess assault weapon	Class D felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term, except that a first violation is a class A misdemeanor if the person proves that he or she lawfully possessed the weapon before October 1, 1993, or on April 4, 2013 (depending on specific weapon), and is otherwise in compliance
53-202w(c)	Possess an undeclared large capacity magazine (LCM)	Class D felony, except it is an infraction with a \$90 fine for a first offense if the LCM was obtained before April 5, 2013 ⁺
53-202x(g)	Possession of LCM in unauthorized manner by person who declared possession of it	Class C misdemeanor
53-206g	Possess a "rate of fire enhancement" (e.g., a bump stock)	Class D felony ⁺
PA 19-6, § 5	Possess an unfinished frame or lower receiver when ineligible to possess a firearm under law	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any unfinished frame or lower receiver found in the violator's possession must be forfeited ⁺
53a-174	Bring any firearm without authorization into correctional institution	Class D felony
53a-174a	Possess or carry any firearm within correctional institution while incarcerated	Class B felony
53a-211	Possess sawed-off shotgun or silencer	Class D felony
53a-217	Possess firearm (other than handgun) or ammunition when ineligible to do so (see above)	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it

Table 4 (continued)

FIREARM POSSESSION OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
53a-217b (as amended by PA 19-108 , § 9)	Possess any firearm on elementary or high school property or at school-sponsored activities knowing that one is not authorized to do so	Class D felony
53a-217c	Possess handgun when ineligible to do so (see above)	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
CHILD ENDANGERMENT OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
29-33(d), (i)	Sell or transfer handgun, other than at wholesale, without trigger lock	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-34	Sell or transfer handgun to anyone under age 21 (except temporarily at gun range)	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited
29-37a(b), (i)	Sell or transfer long gun at retail to anyone under age 18	Class D felony and any long gun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-37a(b), (i)	Sell or transfer at retail, to anyone under age 21, a semi-automatic centerfire rifle that accepts a capacity exceeding five rounds	Class D felony and any long gun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+
29-37b	Sell handgun at retail without trigger lock and safety warning	At least \$500 fine for each violation
29-37f	Employ minor under age 18 or other unauthorized person to sell handguns in retail store where the principal business is selling goods other than firearms	Up to \$10,000 per day for each violation
29-37i, 52-571g, & 53a-217a (as amended by PA 19-5)	Criminally negligent storage (storing or keeping a firearm where a minor under age 18 can get it and uses it to injure or kill himself or herself or someone else)	Class D felony and strict liability for damages
29-38m(b)	Sell ammunition or ammunition magazine to a person under age 18	Class D felony
53-202(c)(2)	Transfer machine gun to minor under age 16	Five to 10 years imprisonment, up to \$1,000 fine, or both

Table 4 (continued)

CHILD ENDANGERMENT OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
53-206f	Failure of parent or guardian to make reasonable efforts to halt illegal possession of firearm by minor	Class A misdemeanor; class D felony if the child hurts or kills someone with the firearm
53a-217b (as amended by PA 19-108 , § 9)	Possess any firearm on elementary or high school property or at school-sponsored activities knowing that one is not authorized to do so	Class D felony
ASSAULT WEAPON OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
53-202b	Sell or transfer assault weapon	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; additional six-year mandatory minimum for providing the weapon to minor under age 18
53-202c	Illegally possess assault weapon	Class D felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term, except that a first violation is a class A misdemeanor if the person proves that he or she lawfully possessed the weapon before October 1, 1993, or on April 4, 2013 (depending on specific weapon), and is otherwise in compliance
53-202f(a)	Transport assault weapon in unauthorized manner	Class E felony
53-202j	Display, use, or threaten to use assault weapon while committing class A, B, or C felony	Eight-year mandatory minimum prison term in addition to the sentence for the underlying felony
MACHINE GUN OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
53-202(b)	Possess or use machine gun while committing or attempting to commit certain violent crimes	10 to 20 years imprisonment (in addition to the sentence for the crime)
53-202(c)	Possess or use machine gun for offensive or aggressive purpose	Five to 10 years imprisonment, up to \$1,000 fine, or both (in addition to the sentence for any underlying crime)
53-202(c)(2)	Transfer machine gun to minor under age 16	Five to 10 years imprisonment, up to \$1,000 fine, or both
53-202(f)	Manufacturer's failure to keep register of machine guns or allow police officer inspection	Fine up to \$2,000
53-202(g)	Fail to register machine gun	Five to 10 years imprisonment, up to \$1,000 fine, or both

Table 4 (continued)

"STRAW MAN" AND GUN TRAFFICKING OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
29-33	Sell handgun without background check and DESPP authorization	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+ Higher penalties if seller knows that the gun is stolen or that its serial or other identifying number is defaced (see above under "Transfer and Purchase Offenses")
29-34(a)	Provide false statement or false information in connection with the sale, purchase, or delivery of handgun	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited
29-37a(d)	Sell long gun without background check and DESPP authorization	Class D felony and any long gun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited+ Higher penalties if seller knows that the gun is stolen or that its serial or other identifying number is defaced (see above under "Transfer and Purchase Offenses")
29-37e	Provide false statement or false information in connection with the sale, purchase, or delivery of long gun	Class D felony and any firearm found in the violator's possession must be forfeited
29-37j(a), (c)	Buy firearm intending to transfer it to an ineligible person (straw man transactions)	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it If violator was convicted of a felony within the previous five years: class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$10,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it

Table 4 (continued)

"STRAW MAN" AND GUN TRAFFICKING OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
29-37j(b), (c)	Solicit firearm through straw man	<p>Class D felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$3,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it</p> <p>If person actually receives a firearm through such actions: class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it</p> <p>If violator was convicted of a felony within the previous five years: class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$10,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it</p>
53-202aa	Knowingly and intentionally cause firearms (excluding long guns) to come into the possession of an ineligible person	Class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$10,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
HUNTING OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
26-80b	Internet hunting	Class A misdemeanor
26-75, 26-81	Use silencer on firearm while hunting	Class D misdemeanor
26-85	Use, attempt to use, or possess jacklight for taking deer	Imprisonment of 30 days to six months, fine of \$200 to \$500, or both, plus forfeiture of firearm; increased penalties for subsequent offenses
26-107	Hunt in state wildlife refuge	Up to \$100 fine
53-204	Hunt from public highway	Up to \$100 fine
53-206d(b)	Hunting while intoxicated	Class A misdemeanor plus surrender of firearm; enhanced penalty for repeat offenses (see 53a-217e)
53a-217e(b)	1 st degree negligent hunting	Class D felony plus surrender of firearm (enhanced penalty for persistent negligent hunter)

Table 4 (continued)

HUNTING OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
53a-217e(c)	2 nd degree negligent hunting	Class A misdemeanor with minimum \$400 fine plus surrender of firearm (enhanced penalty for persistent negligent hunter)
53a-217e(d)	3 rd degree negligent hunting	Class B misdemeanor with minimum \$200 fine plus surrender of firearm (enhanced penalty for persistent negligent hunter)
53a-217e(e)	4 th degree negligent hunting	Class C misdemeanor
MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
PA 19-7	Keep handgun in unattended vehicle unless gun is in trunk, locked safe, or locked glove box	Class A misdemeanor for first-time violation; class D felony for subsequent offense ⁺
29-32	Fail to surrender revoked gun permit within five days of written notification	Class A misdemeanor
29-36 (as amended by PA 19-6, § 1)	Alter, remove, or deface firearm serial number	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and forfeiture of any firearm in violator's possession
PA 19-6, § 2	Create a "ghost gun" – i.e., complete the manufacture of a firearm without subsequently (1) obtaining a unique serial number or other identification mark from DESPP and (2) engraving or permanently affixing it to the firearm	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and forfeiture of any firearm in violator's possession ⁺
PA 19-6, § 2	Facilitate or aid the manufacture of a firearm (1) by or for someone who is otherwise prohibited by law from possessing it or (2) that a person is otherwise prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and forfeiture of any firearm in violator's possession ⁺
29-36i	Fail to surrender revoked handgun eligibility certificate within five days of written notification	Class A misdemeanor
29-36k, 53a-217	Fail to surrender long gun after event that makes one ineligible to possess them	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
29-36k, 53-217c	Fail to surrender handgun after event that makes one ineligible to possess them	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it

Table 4 (continued)

MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES		
Statute	Brief Description of Offense	Brief Summary of Penalty
29-37s	Fail to surrender revoked long gun eligibility certificate within five days of written notification	Class A misdemeanor
29-38p	Fail to surrender revoked ammunition certificate within five days of written notification	Class A misdemeanor
53-202g	Fail to report lost or stolen firearms	\$90 infraction for first-time unintentional failure; class C felony for subsequent unintentional failure; class B felony for any intentional failure
53-202l(b)	Distribute, transport, or sell banned ammunition (e.g., armor-piercing bullets)	Class A misdemeanor for first-time violation; class D felony for subsequent offense*
53-206b	Teach anyone to use or make firearms to use in civil disorder or assemble with people to do so	Class C felony
PA 19-6, § 4	Manufacture a firearm from polymer plastic that is less detectible by a walk-through metal detector than a security exemplar	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and forfeiture of any firearm in violator's possession*
53a-212	Steal firearm	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, and \$5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it

*All of the use offenses classified as A, B, or C felonies carry an additional five-year mandatory minimum prison term except those involving an assault weapon, which carry an eight-year mandatory minimum.

+ For these offenses, the law specifies that the court may suspend prosecution under certain circumstances for first-time offenses not of a serious nature.

Table 5: Table on Penalties

Classification of Crime	Prison Term	Fine (up to)
Class A felony (murder with special circumstances)	Life, without release	\$20,000
Class A felony (murder)	25 to 60 years	20,000
Class A felony (aggravated sexual assault of a minor)	25 to 50 years	20,000
Class A felony	10 to 25 years	20,000
Class B felony (1 st degree manslaughter with a firearm)	5 to 40 years	15,000
Class B felony	1 to 20 years	15,000
Class C felony	1 to 10 years	10,000
Class D felony	up to 5 years	5,000

Table 5 (continued)

<i>Classification of Crime</i>	<i>Prison Term</i>	<i>Fine (up to)</i>
Class E felony	up to 3 years	3,500
Class A misdemeanor	up to 1 year	2,000
Class B misdemeanor	up to 6 months	1,000
Class C misdemeanor	up to 3 months	500
Class D misdemeanor	up to 30 days	250

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