



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 359

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6684

House of Representatives, April 3, 2023

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXCLUDING CERTAIN TARGET SHOOTING PISTOLS FROM PROVISIONS ON ASSAULT WEAPONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Not later than October 1,
2 2023, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
3 shall (1) identify semiautomatic pistols that (A) are defined as assault
4 weapons in any provision of subparagraphs (B) to (F), inclusive, of
5 subdivision (1) of section 53-202a of the general statutes, and (B) are
6 designed for use in target shooting and sanctioned for such use by a
7 United States or international target shooting organization or for use in
8 the Olympic Games, and (2) post a list of such pistols on the Internet
9 web site of the Department of Emergency Services and Public
10 Protection. Such list shall be used for the purposes of identifying
11 semiautomatic pistols that may be sold pursuant to subdivision (4) of
12 subsection (b) of section 53-202b of the general statutes, as amended by
13 this act, or that may be possessed pursuant to subsection (f) of section
14 53-202c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or subparagraph

15 (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or subdivision (7) of subsection
16 (f) of section 53-202d of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

17 (b) The commissioner shall review the list posted pursuant to
18 subsection (a) of this section not less frequently than annually and make
19 any revisions to such list as the commissioner deems necessary.

20 Sec. 2. Section 53-202b of the general statutes is repealed and the
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

22 (a) (1) Any person who, within this state, distributes, transports or
23 imports into the state, keeps for sale, or offers or exposes for sale, or who
24 gives any assault weapon, except as provided by sections 53-202a to 53-
25 202k, inclusive, shall be guilty of a class C felony and shall be sentenced
26 to a term of imprisonment of which two years may not be suspended or
27 reduced by the court.

28 (2) Any person who transfers, sells or gives any assault weapon to a
29 person under eighteen years of age in violation of subdivision (1) of this
30 subsection shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of six years,
31 which shall not be suspended or reduced by the court and shall be in
32 addition and consecutive to the term of imprisonment imposed under
33 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

34 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to:

35 (1) The sale of assault weapons to: (A) The Department of Emergency
36 Services and Public Protection, police departments, the Department of
37 Correction, the Division of Criminal Justice, the Department of Motor
38 Vehicles, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or
39 the military or naval forces of this state or of the United States, [;] (B) a
40 sworn and duly certified member of an organized police department,
41 the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency
42 Services and Public Protection or the Department of Correction, a chief
43 inspector or inspector in the Division of Criminal Justice, a salaried
44 inspector of motor vehicles designated by the Commissioner of Motor
45 Vehicles, a conservation officer or special conservation officer appointed

46 by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant
47 to section 26-5, or a constable who is certified by the Police Officer
48 Standards and Training Council and appointed by the chief executive
49 authority of a town, city or borough to perform criminal law
50 enforcement duties, pursuant to a letter on the letterhead of such
51 department, division, commissioner or authority authorizing the
52 purchase and stating that the sworn member, inspector, officer or
53 constable will use the assault weapon in the discharge of official duties,
54 and that a records check indicates that the sworn member, inspector,
55 officer or constable has not been convicted of a crime of family violence,
56 for use by such sworn member, inspector, officer or constable in the
57 discharge of such sworn member's, inspector's, officer's or constable's
58 official duties or when off duty, (C) a member of the military or naval
59 forces of this state or of the United States, or (D) a nuclear facility
60 licensed by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the
61 purpose of providing security services at such facility, or any contractor
62 or subcontractor of such facility for the purpose of providing security
63 services at such facility;

64 (2) A person who is the executor or administrator of an estate that
65 includes an assault weapon for which a certificate of possession has
66 been issued under section 53-202d, as amended by this act, which is
67 disposed of as authorized by the Probate Court, if the disposition is
68 otherwise permitted by sections 53-202a to 53-202k, inclusive;

69 (3) The transfer of an assault weapon for which a certificate of
70 possession has been issued under section 53-202d, as amended by this
71 act, by bequest or intestate succession, or, upon the death of a testator
72 or settlor: (A) To a trust, or (B) from a trust to a beneficiary who is
73 eligible to possess the assault weapon;

74 (4) The sale of a semiautomatic pistol that is defined as an assault
75 weapon in any provision of subparagraphs (B) to (F), inclusive, of
76 subdivision (1) of section 53-202a that the Commissioner of Emergency
77 Services and Public Protection [designates as being designed expressly
78 for use in target shooting events at the Olympic games sponsored by the

79 International Olympic Committee pursuant to regulations adopted
80 under this subdivision] identifies on a list posted on the Internet web
81 site of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
82 pursuant to section 1 of this act, and for which the purchaser signs a
83 form prescribed by the commissioner and provided by the seller that
84 indicates that the pistol will be used by the purchaser primarily for
85 target shooting practice and events. [The Commissioner of Emergency
86 Services and Public Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance
87 with chapter 54, to designate semiautomatic pistols that are defined as
88 assault weapons in any provision of subparagraphs (B) to (F), inclusive,
89 of subdivision (1) of section 53-202a that may be sold pursuant to this
90 subdivision, provided the use of such pistols is sanctioned by the
91 International Olympic Committee and USA Shooting, or any
92 subsequent corresponding governing board for international shooting
93 competition in the United States.]

94 Sec. 3. Section 53-202c of the general statutes is repealed and the
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

96 (a) Except as provided in section 53-202e, any person who, within this
97 state, possesses an assault weapon, except as provided in sections 53-
98 202a to 53-202k, inclusive, and 53-202o, shall be guilty of a class D felony
99 and shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of which one year may
100 not be suspended or reduced by the court, except that a first-time
101 violation of this subsection shall be a class A misdemeanor if (1) the
102 person presents proof that such person lawfully possessed the assault
103 weapon (A) prior to October 1, 1993, with respect to an assault weapon
104 described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of section 53-202a, or
105 (B) on April 4, 2013, under the provisions of sections 53-202a to 53-202k,
106 inclusive, in effect on January 1, 2013, with respect to an assault weapon
107 described in any provision of subparagraphs (B) to (F), inclusive, of
108 subdivision (1) of section 53-202a, and (2) the person has otherwise
109 possessed the assault weapon in compliance with subsection (f) of
110 section 53-202d, as amended by this act.

111 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to

112 the possession of assault weapons by: (1) The Department of Emergency
113 Services and Public Protection, police departments, the Department of
114 Correction, the Division of Criminal Justice, the Department of Motor
115 Vehicles, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or
116 the military or naval forces of this state or of the United States, (2) a
117 sworn and duly certified member of an organized police department,
118 the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency
119 Services and Public Protection or the Department of Correction, a chief
120 inspector or inspector in the Division of Criminal Justice, a salaried
121 inspector of motor vehicles designated by the Commissioner of Motor
122 Vehicles, a conservation officer or special conservation officer appointed
123 by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant
124 to section 26-5, or a constable who is certified by the Police Officer
125 Standards and Training Council and appointed by the chief executive
126 authority of a town, city or borough to perform criminal law
127 enforcement duties, for use by such sworn member, inspector, officer or
128 constable in the discharge of such sworn member's, inspector's, officer's
129 or constable's official duties or when off duty, (3) a member of the
130 military or naval forces of this state or of the United States, or (4) a
131 nuclear facility licensed by the United States Nuclear Regulatory
132 Commission for the purpose of providing security services at such
133 facility, or any contractor or subcontractor of such facility for the
134 purpose of providing security services at such facility.

135 (c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to
136 the possession of an assault weapon described in subparagraph (A) of
137 subdivision (1) of section 53-202a by any person prior to July 1, 1994, if
138 all of the following are applicable:

139 (1) The person is eligible under sections 53-202a to 53-202k, inclusive,
140 to apply for a certificate of possession for the assault weapon by July 1,
141 1994;

142 (2) The person lawfully possessed the assault weapon prior to
143 October 1, 1993; and

144 (3) The person is otherwise in compliance with sections 53-202a to 53-

145 202k, inclusive.

146 (d) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to
147 the possession of an assault weapon described in any provision of
148 subparagraphs (B) to (F), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of section 53-202a
149 by any person prior to April 5, 2013, if all of the following are applicable:

150 (1) The person is eligible under sections 53-202a to 53-202k, inclusive,
151 to apply for a certificate of possession for the assault weapon by January
152 1, 2014;

153 (2) The person lawfully possessed the assault weapon on April 4,
154 2013, under the provisions of sections 53-202a to 53-202k, inclusive, in
155 effect on January 1, 2013; and

156 (3) The person is otherwise in compliance with sections 53-202a to 53-
157 202k, inclusive.

158 (e) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to a
159 person who is the executor or administrator of an estate that includes an
160 assault weapon, or the trustee of a trust that includes an assault weapon,
161 for which a certificate of possession has been issued under section 53-
162 202d, as amended by this act, if the assault weapon is possessed at a
163 place set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of section 53-202d, as
164 amended by this act, or as authorized by the Probate Court.

165 (f) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to
166 the possession of a semiautomatic pistol that is defined as an assault
167 weapon in any provision of subparagraphs (B) to (F), inclusive, of
168 subdivision (1) of section 53-202a that the Commissioner of Emergency
169 Services and Public Protection [designates as being designed expressly
170 for use in target shooting events at the Olympic games sponsored by the
171 International Olympic Committee pursuant to regulations adopted
172 under subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 53-202b] identifies on
173 a list posted on the Internet web site of the Department of Emergency
174 Services and Public Protection pursuant to section 1 of this act, that is
175 (1) possessed and transported in accordance with subsection (f) of

176 section 53-202d, as amended by this act, or (2) possessed at or
177 transported to or from a collegiate, Olympic or target pistol shooting
178 competition in this state which is sponsored by, conducted under the
179 auspices of, or approved by a law enforcement agency or a nationally or
180 state recognized entity that fosters proficiency in, or promotes education
181 about, firearms, provided such pistol is transported in the manner
182 prescribed in subsection (a) of section 53-202f.

183 Sec. 4. Section 53-202d of the general statutes is repealed and the
184 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

185 (a) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
186 any person who lawfully possesses an assault weapon, as defined in
187 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of section 53-202a, prior to October
188 1, 1993, shall apply by October 1, 1994, or, if such person is a member of
189 the military or naval forces of this state or of the United States and is
190 unable to apply by October 1, 1994, because such member is or was on
191 official duty outside of this state, shall apply within ninety days of
192 returning to the state to the Department of Emergency Services and
193 Public Protection, for a certificate of possession with respect to such
194 assault weapon.

195 (B) No person who lawfully possesses an assault weapon pursuant to
196 subdivision (1), (2) or (4) of subsection (b) of section 53-202c, as amended
197 by this act, shall be required to obtain a certificate of possession
198 pursuant to this subdivision with respect to an assault weapon used for
199 official duties, except that any person described in subdivision (2) of
200 subsection (b) of section 53-202c, as amended by this act, who purchases
201 an assault weapon, as defined in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of
202 section 53-202a, for use in the discharge of official duties who retires or
203 is otherwise separated from service shall apply within ninety days of
204 such retirement or separation from service to the Department of
205 Emergency Services and Public Protection for a certificate of possession
206 with respect to such assault weapon.

207 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
208 any person who lawfully possesses an assault weapon, as defined in any

209 provision of subparagraphs (B) to (F), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of
210 section 53-202a, on April 4, 2013, under the provisions of sections 53-
211 202a to 53-202k, inclusive, in effect on January 1, 2013, or any person
212 who regains possession of an assault weapon as defined in any
213 provision of said subparagraphs pursuant to subsection (e) of section
214 53-202f, or any person who lawfully purchases a firearm on or after
215 April 4, 2013, but prior to June 18, 2013, that meets the criteria set forth
216 in subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of section 53-202a of the general
217 statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, shall apply by
218 January 1, 2014, or, if such person is a member of the military or naval
219 forces of this state or of the United States and is unable to apply by
220 January 1, 2014, because such member is or was on official duty outside
221 of this state, shall apply within ninety days of returning to the state to
222 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for a
223 certificate of possession with respect to such assault weapon. Any
224 person who lawfully purchases a semiautomatic pistol that is defined as
225 an assault weapon in any provision of subparagraphs (B) to (F),
226 inclusive, of subdivision (1) of section 53-202a that the Commissioner of
227 Emergency Services and Public Protection [designates as being
228 designed expressly for use in target shooting events at the Olympic
229 games sponsored by the International Olympic Committee pursuant to
230 regulations adopted under subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section
231 53-202b] identifies on a list posted on the Internet web site of the
232 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection pursuant to
233 section 1 of this act, shall apply within ninety days of such purchase to
234 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for a
235 certificate of possession with respect to such assault weapon.

236 (B) No person who lawfully possesses an assault weapon pursuant to
237 subdivision (1), (2) or (4) of subsection (b) of section 53-202c, as amended
238 by this act, shall be required to obtain a certificate of possession
239 pursuant to this subdivision with respect to an assault weapon used for
240 official duties, except that any person described in subdivision (2) of
241 subsection (b) of section 53-202c, as amended by this act, who purchases
242 an assault weapon, as defined in any provision of subparagraphs (B) to
243 (F), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of section 53-202a for use in the

244 discharge of official duties who retires or is otherwise separated from
245 service shall apply within ninety days of such retirement or separation
246 from service to the Department of Emergency Services and Public
247 Protection for a certificate of possession with respect to such assault
248 weapon.

249 (3) Any person who obtained a certificate of possession for an assault
250 weapon, as defined in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of section 53-
251 202a, prior to April 5, 2013, that is defined as an assault weapon
252 pursuant to any provision of subparagraphs (B) to (F), inclusive, of
253 subdivision (1) of section 53-202a shall be deemed to have obtained a
254 certificate of possession for such assault weapon for the purposes of
255 sections 53-202a to 53-202k, inclusive, and shall not be required to obtain
256 a subsequent certificate of possession for such assault weapon.

257 (4) The certificate of possession shall contain a description of the
258 firearm that identifies it uniquely, including all identification marks, the
259 full name, address, date of birth and thumbprint of the owner, and any
260 other information as the department may deem appropriate.

261 (5) The department shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
262 provisions of chapter 54, to establish procedures with respect to the
263 application for and issuance of certificates of possession pursuant to this
264 section. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 1-210 and 1-211, the
265 name and address of a person issued a certificate of possession shall be
266 confidential and shall not be disclosed, except such records may be
267 disclosed to (A) law enforcement agencies and employees of the United
268 States Probation Office acting in the performance of their duties and
269 parole officers within the Department of Correction acting in the
270 performance of their duties, and (B) the Commissioner of Mental Health
271 and Addiction Services to carry out the provisions of subsection (c) of
272 section 17a-500.

273 (b) (1) No assault weapon, as defined in subparagraph (A) of
274 subdivision (1) of section 53-202a, possessed pursuant to a certificate of
275 possession issued under this section may be sold or transferred on or
276 after January 1, 1994, to any person within this state other than to a

277 licensed gun dealer, as defined in subsection (f) of section 53-202f, or as
278 provided in section 53-202e, or by bequest or intestate succession, or,
279 upon the death of a testator or settlor: (A) To a trust, or (B) from a trust
280 to a beneficiary who is eligible to possess the assault weapon.

281 (2) No assault weapon, as defined in any provision of subparagraphs
282 (B) to (F), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of section 53-202a, possessed
283 pursuant to a certificate of possession issued under this section may be
284 sold or transferred on or after April 5, 2013, to any person within this
285 state other than to a licensed gun dealer, as defined in subsection (f) of
286 section 53-202f, or as provided in section 53-202e, or by bequest or
287 intestate succession, or, upon the death of a testator or settlor: (A) To a
288 trust, or (B) from a trust to a beneficiary who is eligible to possess the
289 assault weapon.

290 (c) Any person who obtains title to an assault weapon for which a
291 certificate of possession has been issued under this section by bequest
292 or intestate succession shall, within ninety days of obtaining title, apply
293 to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for a
294 certificate of possession as provided in subsection (a) of this section,
295 render the assault weapon permanently inoperable, sell the assault
296 weapon to a licensed gun dealer or remove the assault weapon from the
297 state.

298 (d) Any person who moves into the state in lawful possession of an
299 assault weapon, shall, within ninety days, either render the assault
300 weapon permanently inoperable, sell the assault weapon to a licensed
301 gun dealer or remove the assault weapon from this state, except that any
302 person who is a member of the military or naval forces of this state or of
303 the United States, is in lawful possession of an assault weapon and has
304 been transferred into the state after October 1, 1994, may, within ninety
305 days of arriving in the state, apply to the Department of Emergency
306 Services and Public Protection for a certificate of possession with respect
307 to such assault weapon.

308 (e) If an owner of an assault weapon sells or transfers the assault
309 weapon to a licensed gun dealer, such dealer shall, at the time of

310 delivery of the assault weapon, execute a certificate of transfer and cause
311 the certificate of transfer to be mailed or delivered to the Commissioner
312 of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The certificate of transfer
313 shall contain: (1) The date of sale or transfer; (2) the name and address
314 of the seller or transferor and the licensed gun dealer, their Social
315 Security numbers or motor vehicle operator license numbers, if
316 applicable; (3) the licensed gun dealer's federal firearms license number
317 and seller's permit number; (4) a description of the assault weapon,
318 including the caliber of the assault weapon and its make, model and
319 serial number; and (5) any other information the commissioner
320 prescribes. The licensed gun dealer shall present such dealer's motor
321 vehicle operator's license or Social Security card, federal firearms license
322 and seller's permit to the seller or transferor for inspection at the time of
323 purchase or transfer. The Commissioner of Emergency Services and
324 Public Protection shall maintain a file of all certificates of transfer at the
325 commissioner's central office.

326 (f) Any person who has been issued a certificate of possession for an
327 assault weapon under this section may possess the assault weapon only
328 under the following conditions:

329 (1) At that person's residence, place of business or other property
330 owned by that person, or on property owned by another person with
331 the owner's express permission;

332 (2) While on the premises of a target range of a public or private club
333 or organization organized for the purpose of practicing shooting at
334 targets;

335 (3) While on a target range which holds a regulatory or business
336 license for the purpose of practicing shooting at that target range;

337 (4) While on the premises of a licensed shooting club;

338 (5) While attending any exhibition, display or educational project
339 which is about firearms and which is sponsored by, conducted under
340 the auspices of, or approved by a law enforcement agency or a

341 nationally or state recognized entity that fosters proficiency in, or
342 promotes education about, firearms;

343 (6) While transporting the assault weapon between any of the places
344 set forth in this subsection, or to any licensed gun dealer, as defined in
345 subsection (f) of section 53-202f, for servicing or repair pursuant to
346 subsection (c) of section 53-202f, provided the assault weapon is
347 transported as required by section 53-202f;

348 (7) With respect to a nonresident of this state, while transporting a
349 semiautomatic pistol that is defined as an assault weapon in any
350 provision of subparagraphs (B) to (F), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of
351 section 53-202a that the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
352 Public Protection [designates as being designed expressly for use in
353 target shooting events at the Olympic games sponsored by the
354 International Olympic Committee pursuant to regulations adopted
355 under subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 53-202b] identifies on
356 a list posted on the Internet web site of the Department of Emergency
357 Services and Public Protection pursuant to section 1 of this act, into or
358 through this state in order to attend any exhibition, display or
359 educational project described in subdivision (5) of this subsection, or to
360 participate in a collegiate, Olympic or target pistol shooting competition
361 in this state which is sponsored by, conducted under the auspices of, or
362 approved by a law enforcement agency or a nationally or state
363 recognized entity that fosters proficiency in, or promotes education
364 about, firearms, provided (A) such pistol is transported into or through
365 this state not more than forty-eight hours prior to or after such
366 exhibition, display, project or competition, (B) such pistol is unloaded
367 and carried in a locked carrying case and the ammunition for such pistol
368 is carried in a separate locked container, (C) such nonresident has not
369 been convicted of a felony in this state or of an offense in another state
370 that would constitute a felony if committed in this state, and (D) such
371 nonresident has in his or her possession a pistol permit or firearms
372 registration card if such permit or card is required for possession of such
373 pistol under the laws of his or her state of residence.

374 Sec. 5. (Effective October 1, 2023) Notwithstanding the provisions of
375 chapter 54 of the general statutes, sections 53-202b-1 to 53-202b-5,
376 inclusive, of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies are repealed.

377 Sec. 6. (Effective October 1, 2023) Not later than January 1, 2024, the
378 Secretary of the State shall update the official compilation of the
379 regulations of Connecticut state agencies posted on the eRegulations
380 System to comply with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general
381 statutes and section 5 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2023	53-202b
Sec. 3	October 1, 2023	53-202c
Sec. 4	October 1, 2023	53-202d
Sec. 5	October 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 6	October 1, 2023	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a)(1) subparagraph designators were inserted and "that are sanctioned" was changed to "and sanctioned for such use", for clarity.

PS Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill (1) broadens the types of target shooting pistols eligible for exemption from the state's assault weapons ban, (2) modifies the process by which the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection determines and publishes the list of such weapons, and (3) repeals associated state regulations, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6684*****AN ACT EXCLUDING CERTAIN TARGET SHOOTING PISTOLS FROM PROVISIONS ON ASSAULT WEAPONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill (1) revamps the process the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner uses to identify semiautomatic pistols designed for target shooting events and make them exempt from the state's assault weapons ban and (2) broadens the types of target shooting pistols eligible for the exemption to include those designed and sanctioned for events other than the Olympic Games.

Under the bill, the DESPP commissioner must (1) identify the exempt pistols on the department's website, rather than in regulations; (2) review it at least annually; and (3) make any revisions he deems necessary. The bill also (1) repeals the existing regulations on the designated Olympic pistols (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 53-202b-1 to -5) and (2) requires the secretary of the state to correspondingly update the official online compilation of state regulations by January 1, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023, except the provision requiring the DESPP commissioner to identify the exempt pistols is effective July 1, 2023.

LIST OF EXEMPT TARGET SHOOTING PISTOLS

Current law allows the sale, possession, and transport of certain semiautomatic pistols designated by the DESPP commissioner as designed expressly for use in target shooting events at Olympic Games sponsored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It requires the DESPP commissioner, in regulations, to designate the target

shooting pistols that may be sold, possessed, or transported for this purpose, as long as they are sanctioned by IOC and USA Shooting, or any subsequent corresponding governing board for international shooting competition in the United States.

The bill instead requires the commissioner, by October 1, 2023, to identify the exempt pistols on the department’s website. It also broadens the types of semiautomatic pistols eligible for the exemption to include those designed for (1) target shooting and sanctioned by a United States or international target shooting organization or (2) use in the Olympic Games. Under the bill, this list must be used to identify the semiautomatic target shooting pistols that may be sold, possessed, or transported into the state under limited circumstances (e.g., to participate in a qualifying collegiate, Olympic, or target pistol shooting competition in Connecticut).

Under the bill, anyone purchasing a pistol on the DESPP list must (1) sign a form, set by the commissioner and provided by the seller, indicating that he or she will use the pistol primarily for target shooting practice and events and (2) apply to register the weapon within 90 days after the purchase. The same requirements apply under current law for the semiautomatic pistols designated in regulations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 7 (03/16/2023)