



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

***Raised Bill No. 6684***

LCO No. 4130



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

***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 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 are  
6 designed for use in target shooting that are sanctioned by a United  
7 States or international target shooting organization or for use in the  
8 Olympic Games, and (2) post a list of such pistols on the Internet web  
9 site of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.  
10 Such list shall be used for the purposes of identifying semiautomatic  
11 pistols that may be sold pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of  
12 section 53-202b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or that  
13 may be possessed pursuant to subsection (f) of section 53-202c of the  
14 general statutes, as amended by this act, or subparagraph (A) of  
15 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or subdivision (7) of subsection (f) of  
16 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 Section 53-202b of the general statutes is repealed and the  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	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	53-202b
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	53-202c
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	53-202d
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection to publish a list excluding certain target shooting pistols from the provisions on assault weapons, and repeal existing regulations regarding such pistols.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*