STATE OF CONNECTICUT

QUI TRANSTULIT SUSTINET

Substitute House Bill No. 7042

Public Act No. 25-43

AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIREARM INDUSTRY RESPONSIBILITY ACT, FIREARMS PERMITS AND ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES AND SELF-DEFENSE.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to any civil action filed on or after said date*) As used in this section and sections 2 and 3 of this act:

(1) "Firearm industry member" means a person, firm, corporation, company, partnership, society, joint stock company, trade association, or any other entity or association engaged in the manufacture, distribution, importation, marketing, wholesale or retail sale of firearm industry products.

(2) "Firearm industry product" means any of the following which are or were (A) sold, made or distributed in this state; or (B) possessed in this state and it was known by the firearm industry member that such product would be sold, made, distributed or possessed in this state:

(i) Ammunition or a magazine as those terms are defined in section 29-38m of the general statutes;

(ii) A firearm as defined in section 53a-3 of the general statutes;

(iii) An unfinished frame or lower receiver as defined in section 53-206j of the general statutes; or

(iv) A rate of firearm enhancement as defined in section 53-206g of the general statutes.

(3) "Firearm trafficker" means an individual who engages in, conspires to engage in, or attempts to engage in conduct that constitutes firearms trafficking as described in section 53-202aa of the general statutes or trafficking in firearms as described in 18 USC 933.

(4) "Reasonable controls" means procedures, acts and practices that are designed, implemented and enforced to do all of the following:

(A) Prevent the sale or distribution in this state of a firearm industry product to a straw purchaser, a firearm trafficker, a person prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law, or a person about whom a firearm industry member has reasonable cause to believe such person is at substantial risk of using a firearm industry product to harm themself or another or of possessing or using a firearm industry product unlawfully.

(B) Ensure compliance with sections 29-28, as amended by this act, 29-36f, as amended by this act, 29-37p, as amended by this act, and 29-38n of the general statutes, as applicable.

(C) Prevent the sale or distribution in this state of a firearm industry product that is designed in a manner that is reasonably foreseeable to promote conversion of a legal firearm industry product into an illegal firearm industry product.

(D) Ensure compliance with section 2 of this act.

(5) "Straw purchaser" means an individual who engages in or attempts to engage in conduct that violates subsection (a) of section 29-

34 of the general statutes, section 29-37e of the general statutes or 18 USC 932.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to any civil action filed on or after said date*) (a) A firearm industry member shall establish, implement and enforce reasonable controls.

(b) No firearm industry member shall provide a firearm industry product to another firearm industry member when the firearm industry member has reasonable cause to believe that such other firearm industry member is engaged in conduct that is in violation of this section.

(c) No firearm industry member shall purposely and knowingly direct its advertising, marketing or promotions of firearm industry products in this state in a manner that it knows would promote unlawful sales, promote unlawful use or promote unreasonable risk to public safety.

(d) No firearm industry member shall knowingly violate state or federal law relating to the manufacture, distribution, importation, marketing, wholesale or retail sale of firearm industry products.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to any civil action filed on or after said date*) (a) An act or omission by a firearm industry member that fails to comply with any provision of section 2 of this act constitutes a violation of said section and shall be actionable under this section.

(b) Such action may be brought in the superior court for the judicial district where the act, omission or harm is alleged to have occurred by:

(1) A person who has suffered harm in this state because of a firearm industry member's violation of section 2 of this act;

(2) The corporation counsel or other chief legal officer of a

municipality in the name of the municipality; or

(3) The Attorney General in the name of the state.

(c) Any person bringing an action pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (b) of this section shall provide notice of such action to the Attorney General not later than thirty days after the date of filing such action.

(d) If a court determines that a firearm industry member has violated any provision of section 2 of this act, the court may award any or all of the following:

(1) Injunctive relief sufficient to prevent the firearm industry member and any other defendant from further violating the law.

(2) Compensatory damages.

(3) Punitive damages.

(4) Restitution.

(5) Costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

(6) Any other appropriate relief necessary to enforce the provisions of chapter 529 of the general statutes and remedy the harm caused by the conduct.

Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 29-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) Upon the application of any person having a bona fide permanent residence within the jurisdiction of any such authority, such chief of police or, where there is no chief of police, such chief executive officer, as defined in section 7-193, or, if designated by such chief executive

officer, a resident state trooper or state police officer, as applicable, may issue a temporary state permit to such person to carry a pistol or revolver within the state, provided such authority shall find that such applicant intends to make no use of any pistol or revolver which such applicant may be permitted to carry under such permit other than a lawful use and that such person is a suitable person to receive such permit. Such applicant shall submit to a state and national criminal history records check in accordance with section 29-17a. If the applicant has a bona fide permanent residence within the jurisdiction of any federally recognized Native American tribe within the borders of the state, and such tribe has a law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a, the chief of police of such law enforcement unit may issue a temporary state permit to such person pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, and any chief of police of any other law enforcement unit having jurisdiction over an area containing such person's bona fide permanent residence shall not issue such temporary state permit if such tribal law enforcement unit accepts applications for temporary state permits. Such applicant shall submit to a state and national criminal history records check in accordance with section 29-17a. No state or temporary state permit to carry a pistol or revolver shall be issued under this subsection if the applicant: (1) (A) For any application filed prior to July 1, 2024, has failed to successfully complete a course approved by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection in the safety and use of pistols and revolvers including, but not limited to, a safety or training course in the use of pistols and revolvers available to the public offered by a law enforcement agency, a private or public educational institution or a firearms training school, utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and a safety or training course in the use of pistols or revolvers conducted by an instructor certified by the state or the National Rifle Association, and (B) for any application filed on or after July 1, 2024, has failed to successfully complete, not earlier than two years prior to the submission of such application, a course approved

by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection in the safety and use of firearms, which courses may include those certified by the National Rifle Association or other organizations, conducted by an instructor certified by the National Rifle Association or by the state, provided any such course includes instruction in state law requirements pertaining to safe storage in the home and in vehicles, lawful use of firearms and lawful carrying of firearms in public. Any person wishing to provide such course, may apply in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner shall approve or deny any application for provision of such a course not later than July 1, 2024, in the case of an application submitted before October 1, 2023; (2) has been convicted of (A) a felony, or (B) (i) a misdemeanor violation of section 21a-279 on or after October 1, 2015, **[**or (C)**]** (ii) a misdemeanor violation of section 53a-58, 53a-61, 53a-61a, 53a-62, 53a-63, 53a-96, 53a-175, 53a-176, 53a-178 or 53a-181d during the preceding **[**twenty**]** eight years, **[**or**]** (iii) a misdemeanor violation of any law of this state that has been designated as a family violence crime pursuant to section 46b-38h, or (iv) a misdemeanor violation in another state, a federal, tribal or military court or any foreign jurisdiction during the preceding eight years that a reasonable reviewer would believe to constitute (I) any crime of violence against another person causing physical injury, (II) any crime that with extreme indifference to human life creates a risk of serious physical injury or with criminal negligence causes the death of another person other than by a motor vehicle, (III) any crime that by physical threat or course of conduct causes another person to reasonably fear for such person's safety, (IV) any crime involving engaging in or inciting a riot, or (V) possession of a controlled substance or hallucinogenic substance, each as defined in section 21a-240, other than less than four ounces of cannabis, less than one-half ounce of psilocybin or nicotine; (3) has been convicted as delinquent for the commission of a serious juvenile offense, as defined in section 46b-120; (4) has been discharged from custody within the preceding twenty years after having been found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13;

(5) (A) has been confined in a hospital for persons with psychiatric disabilities, as defined in section 17a-495, within the preceding sixty months by order of a probate court, or (B) has been voluntarily admitted on or after October 1, 2013, or has been committed under an emergency certificate pursuant to section 17a-502 on or after October 1, 2023, to a hospital for persons with psychiatric disabilities, as defined in section 17a-495, within the preceding six months for care and treatment of a psychiatric disability and not solely for being an alcohol-dependent person or a drug-dependent person, as those terms are defined in section 17a-680; (6) is subject to a restraining or protective order issued by a court in a case involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person, including an ex parte order issued pursuant to section 46b-15 or 46b-16a; (7) is subject to a firearms seizure order issued prior to June 1, 2022, pursuant to section 29-38c after notice and hearing, or a risk protection order or risk protection investigation order issued on or after June 1, 2022, pursuant to section 29-38c; (8) is prohibited from shipping, transporting, possessing or receiving a firearm pursuant to 18 USC 922(g)(2), (g)(4) or (g)(9); (9) is an alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States; or (10) is less than twenty-one years of age. Nothing in this section shall require any person who holds a valid permit to carry a pistol or revolver on July 1, 2024, to participate in any additional training in the safety and use of pistols and revolvers. No person may apply for a temporary state permit to carry a pistol or revolver more than once within any twelve-month period, and no temporary state permit to carry a pistol or revolver shall be issued to any person who has applied for such permit more than once within the preceding twelve months. Any person who applies for a temporary state permit to carry a pistol or revolver shall indicate in writing on the application, under penalty of false statement in such manner as the issuing authority prescribes, that such person has not applied for a temporary state permit to carry a pistol or revolver within the past twelve months. Upon issuance of a temporary state permit to carry a pistol or revolver to the applicant, the local authority, or the chief of

police of a law enforcement unit of any federally recognized Native American tribe within the borders of the state as referenced in this subsection, shall forward the original application to the commissioner. Not later than sixty days after receiving a temporary state permit, an applicant shall appear at a location designated by the commissioner to receive the state permit. The commissioner may then issue, to any holder of any temporary state permit, a state permit to carry a pistol or revolver within the state. Upon issuance of the state permit, the commissioner shall make available to the permit holder a copy of the law regarding the permit holder's responsibility to report the loss or theft of a firearm and the penalties associated with the failure to comply with such law. Upon issuance of the state permit, the commissioner shall forward a record of such permit to the local authority, or the chief of police of a law enforcement unit of any federally recognized Native American tribe within the borders of the state as referenced in this subsection, issuing the temporary state permit. The commissioner shall retain records of all applications, whether approved or denied. The copy of the state permit delivered to the permittee shall be laminated and shall contain a full-face photograph of such permittee. A person holding a state permit issued pursuant to this subsection shall notify the issuing authority within two business days of any change of such person's address. The notification shall include the old address and the new address of such person.

Sec. 5. Section 29-36f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any person who is twenty-one years of age or older may apply to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection for an eligibility certificate for a pistol or revolver.

(b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall issue an eligibility certificate unless said commissioner finds that the applicant: (1) (A) For any application filed prior to July 1, 2024, has

failed to successfully complete a course approved by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection in the safety and use of pistols and revolvers including, but not limited to, a safety or training course in the use of pistols and revolvers available to the public offered by a law enforcement agency, a private or public educational institution or a firearms training school, utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and a safety or training course in the use of pistols or revolvers conducted by an instructor certified by the state or the National Rifle Association, or (B) for any application filed on or after July 1, 2024, has failed to successfully complete, not earlier than two years prior to the submission of such application, a course approved by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection in the safety and use of firearms, which courses may include those certified by the National Rifle Association or other organizations, conducted by an instructor certified by the National Rifle Association or by the state, provided any such course includes instruction in state law requirements pertaining to safe storage in the home and in vehicles, lawful use of firearms and lawful carrying of firearms in public; (2) has been convicted of (A) a felony, or (B) (i) a misdemeanor violation of section 21a-279 on or after October 1, 2015, **[**(C)**]** (ii) a misdemeanor violation of section 53a-58, 53a-61, 53a-61a, 53a-62, 53a-63, 53a-96, 53a-175, 53a-176, 53a-178 or 53a-181d during the preceding **[**twenty**]** eight years, **[**or (D)**]** (iii) a misdemeanor violation of any law of this state that has been designated as a family violence crime pursuant to section 46b-38h, or (iv) a misdemeanor violation in another state, a federal, tribal or military court or any foreign jurisdiction during the preceding eight years that a reasonable reviewer would believe to constitute (I) any crime of violence against another person causing physical injury, (II) any crime that with extreme indifference to human life creates a risk of serious physical injury or with criminal negligence causes the death of another person other than by a motor vehicle, (III) any crime that by physical threat or course of conduct causes another person to reasonably fear for such

person's safety, (IV) any crime involving engaging in or inciting a riot, or (V) possession of a controlled substance or hallucinogenic substance, each as defined in section 21a-240, other than less than four ounces of cannabis, less than one-half ounce of psilocybin or nicotine; (3) has been convicted as delinquent for the commission of a serious juvenile offense, as defined in section 46b-120; (4) has been discharged from custody within the preceding twenty years after having been found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13; (5) (A) has been confined in a hospital for persons with psychiatric disabilities, as defined in section 17a-495, within the preceding sixty months by order of a probate court; or (B) has been voluntarily admitted on or after October 1, 2013, or has been committed under an emergency certificate pursuant to section 17a-502 on or after October 1, 2023, to a hospital for persons with psychiatric disabilities, as defined in section 17a-495, within the preceding six months for care and treatment of a psychiatric disability and not solely for being an alcohol-dependent person or a drug-dependent person as those terms are defined in section 17a-680; (6) is subject to a restraining or protective order issued by a court in a case involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person, including an ex parte order issued pursuant to section 46b-15 or section 46b-16a; (7) is subject to a firearms seizure order issued prior to June 1, 2022, pursuant to section 29-38c after notice and hearing, or a risk protection order or risk protection investigation order issued on or after June 1, 2022, pursuant to section 29-38c; (8) is prohibited from shipping, transporting, possessing or receiving a firearm pursuant to 18 USC 922(g)(2), (g)(4) or (g)(9); or (9) is an alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States.

Sec. 6. Section 29-37p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any person who is eighteen years of age or older may apply to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection for a long

gun eligibility certificate.

(b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall issue a long gun eligibility certificate unless said commissioner finds that the applicant: (1) (A) For any application filed prior to July 1, 2024, has failed to successfully complete a course approved by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection in the safety and use of firearms including, but not limited to, a safety or training course in the use of firearms available to the public offered by a law enforcement agency, a private or public educational institution or a firearms training school, utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and a safety or training course in the use of firearms conducted by an instructor certified by the state or the National Rifle Association, or (B) for any application filed on or after July 1, 2024, has failed to successfully complete, not earlier than two years prior to the submission of such application, a course approved by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection in the safety and use of firearms, which courses may include those certified by the National Rifle Association or other organizations, conducted by an instructor certified by the National Rifle Association or by the state, provided any such course includes instruction in state law requirements pertaining to safe storage in the home and in vehicles, lawful use of firearms and lawful carrying of firearms in public; (2) has been convicted of (A) a felony, or (B) (i) a misdemeanor violation of section 21a-279 on or after October 1, 2015, **[**(C)**]** (ii) a misdemeanor violation of section 53a-58, 53a-61, 53a-61a, 53a-62, 53a-63, 53a-96, 53a-175, 53a-176, 53a-178 or 53a-181d during the preceding **[**twenty**]** eight years, **[**or (D)**]** (iii) a misdemeanor violation of any law of this state that has been designated as a family violence crime pursuant to section 46b-38h, or (iv) a misdemeanor violation in another state, a federal, tribal or military court or any foreign jurisdiction during the preceding eight years that a reasonable reviewer would believe to constitute (I) any crime of violence against

another person causing physical injury, (II) any crime that with extreme indifference to human life creates a risk of serious physical injury or with criminal negligence causes the death of another person other than by a motor vehicle, (III) any crime that by physical threat or course of conduct causes another person to reasonably fear for such person's safety, (IV) any crime involving engaging in or inciting a riot, or (V) possession of a controlled substance or hallucinogenic substance, each as defined in section 21a-240, other than less than four ounces of cannabis, less than one-half ounce of psilocybin or nicotine; (3) has been convicted as delinquent for the commission of a serious juvenile offense, as defined in section 46b-120; (4) has been discharged from custody within the preceding twenty years after having been found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13; (5) has been confined in a hospital for persons with psychiatric disabilities, as defined in section 17a-495, within the preceding sixty months by order of a probate court; (6) has been voluntarily admitted or, on or after October 1, 2023, has been committed under an emergency certificate pursuant to section 17a-502 to a hospital for persons with psychiatric disabilities, as defined in section 17a-495, within the preceding six months for care and treatment of a psychiatric disability and not solely for being an alcohol-dependent person or a drug-dependent person as those terms are defined in section 17a-680; (7) is subject to a restraining or protective order issued by a court in a case involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person, including an ex parte order issued pursuant to section 46b-15 or 46b-16a; (8) is subject to a firearms seizure order issued prior to June 1, 2022, pursuant to section 29-38c after notice and hearing, or a risk protection order or risk protection investigation order issued on or after June 1, 2022, pursuant to section 29-38c; (9) is prohibited from shipping, transporting, possessing or receiving a firearm pursuant to 18 USC 922(g)(2), (g)(4) or (g)(9); or (10) is an alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States.

Sec. 7. Section 53-203 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any person who intentionally, negligently or carelessly discharges any firearm in such a manner as to be likely to cause bodily injury or death to persons or domestic animals, or the wanton destruction of property, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not be construed to prohibit the intentional discharge of a firearm for the purpose of lawful self-defense or lawful defense of another person.

Sec. 8. Section 26-66 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 governing the taking of wildlife, provided any regulations concerning the taking of migratory game birds shall be consistent with section 26-91. The regulations may: (1) Establish the open and closed seasons, which may be modified by decreasing or increasing the number of days for any specific species, (2) establish hours, days or periods during the open season when hunting shall not be permitted for specific species, (3) establish legal hours, (4) prescribe the legal methods, including type, kind, gauge and caliber of weapons and ammunition, including long bow, (5) prescribe the sex of wildlife that may be taken on a state-wide or local area basis, (6) establish the daily bag limit and the season bag limit, (7) establish the maximum number of persons that may hunt on designated areas during any twenty-four-hour period, (8) require that a permit be obtained from the landowner or such landowner's agent, or the commissioner or such commissioner's agent, to enter upon designated premises or areas for the purpose of hunting, and further require that such permit be returned within a specified time to the issuing authority with an accurate report of all wildlife taken under such permit, the time spent on the premises

or area and any other data required by the commissioner for management purposes, (9) establish areas that shall be restricted for designated periods for hunting only with long bow or other specified weapons, (10) establish areas that shall be restricted for designated periods for hunting exclusively by persons with physical disabilities, (11) establish requirements and procedures for tagging and reporting birds or animals taken by hunting or trapping, **[**;**]** and (12) provided no regulation or order prohibits or may be construed to prohibit the intentional discharge of a firearm for the purpose of lawful self-defense or lawful defense of another person, in the interest of public safety and for the purpose of preventing unreasonable conduct and abuses by hunters, and to provide reasonable control of the actions and behavior of such persons, said commissioner may issue regulations and orders to **[**(12)**]** (A) prohibit the carrying of loaded firearms and hunting within specified distances of buildings, **[**(13)**]** (B) prohibit the discharge of firearms and other hunting devices within specified distances of buildings and, when within specified distances, the discharge of such firearms and devices toward persons, buildings and livestock, **[**(14)**]** (C) prohibit hunting while on any road adjacent to any state park, state forest, premises used for the breeding, rearing or holding in captivity of wildlife or premises used for zoological purposes, **[**(15)**]** (D) establish minimum distances between fixed positions, floating and drift blinds for waterfowl hunting, **[**(16)**]** (E) prohibit crossing over lawns and lands under cultivation, **[**(17)**]** (F) prohibit damage to property, livestock and agricultural crops, **[**(18)**]** (G) prohibit, during specified periods on designated areas, the training, exercising and running of dogs under control or uncontrolled, **[**(19)**]** (H) prohibit the operation and parking of vehicles on designated portions of public and private roads, parking areas, lanes, passageways, rights-of-way, fields and lots, **[**(20)**]** (I) prohibit the discarding of bottles, glass, cans, paper, junk, litter and trash, **[**(21)**]** (J) control the launching, anchoring, mooring, storage and abandonment of boats, trailers and related equipment on properties under the control of the commissioner, **[**(22)**]** (K) specify **[**(A)**]** (i) the

persons who shall wear fluorescent orange clothing, **[**(B)**]** (ii) the time periods during which such clothing shall be worn, and **[**(C)**]** (iii) the types and amounts of such clothing which shall be worn, on and after January 1, 1989, when hunting.

Governor's Action:
Approved June 10, 2025