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Analysis of the Proposed Bill by Minnesota Senator Zaynab Mohamed for a State Ban on the Sale and Transfer of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

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Summary

Discussion:

- Sen. Zaynab Mohamed submitted a proposed bill for a state ban on the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines (*Mohamed bill, Attachment 1*).

¹ Michael Orange serves as the coordinator for the local Chapter 27 Veterans For Peace, Sane Gun Laws group. Since 2018 (with the exception of 2020 due to COVID), members have advocated at the Legislature for bills that would establish a state ban on the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

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- The first purpose of this report is to review the Mohamed bill through the “lens” of those who oppose such a ban:
 - o The report assumes that most law-abiding owners of legally acquired assault weapons are deeply concerned about reducing gun violence and especially its effects on our children.
 - o However, rather than “blame” the weapons, they insist that other factors like mental health and unsafe schools are actually at the root of mass shootings at schools.
 - o Believing incorrectly that the Second Amendment protects their weapons, many feel unjustly blamed for gun crimes committed by others.
 - o The bill includes penalties potentially so severe for something they feel is constitutionally protected can invoke rage.
- If approved, the bill would have the following impacts as of 1/1/2027 on an owner of a legally acquired assault weapon:
 - o They could choose to register it, and continue to store and fire it consistent with the law.
 - o They could choose to surrender it to the appropriate law enforcement agency, modify the device to make it inoperable, or remove it from the state.
 - o They would not be able to transfer it. *Transfer* means a sale, gift, loan, assignment, or other delivery to another. This includes inheritance.
 - o A person who inherits a banned weapon must surrender it to the appropriate law enforcement agency, modify the device to make it inoperable, or remove it from the state.

Recommendations: The second purpose of this report is to suggest changes that minimize the impacts of a ban on current law-abiding owners, yet still retain the main purpose of the ban, which is to maximize the difficulty of obtaining these weapons by potential mass shooters:

1. Split out the ban on high-capacity magazines so it might have a chance at adoption even if the ban on assault weapons doesn't.
2. Don't grandfather high-capacity magazines.
3. Add a buyback program just for high-capacity magazines. Attachment 2 includes a bill for a buyback program for both assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.
4. Amend the regulations governing firing ranges and sport shooting events to accommodate weapons banned by the bill.
5. Rely on current safe-storage regulations instead of the more rigid ones in the bill.
6. Expand transfer exceptions to reduce the impact on law-abiding owners.

Introduction and Purpose

Introduction and purpose: As a part of the Senate Gun Violence Prevention Working Group hearings in September, 2025, Sen. Zaynab Mohamed submitted a proposed bill for a state ban on the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines (dated 9/11/2025). Since the Minnesota Revisor has yet to assign the bill a number, I will refer to it as the *Mohamed bill* (Attachment 1).²

The tragic mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic School and Church last August³ has made banning these weapons of war a priority for many Minnesotans. However, no prior bill has even made it to a floor vote. The purpose of this report is to review the Mohamed bill through the “lens” of the opposition. I began my review by researching the stances and fears of law-abiding owners of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in the hope that the Mohamed bill might be amended in a way to address these concerns and fears while still retaining the bill’s primary objective: making it more difficult for potential mass shooters to obtain these deadly weapons. Hopefully, implementing the suggestions will enhance its chances for adoption.

We know that most mass shooters obtain their weapons (including assault weapons), 1) legally through licensed dealers, 2) by stealing or obtaining them from family members, and 3) through failures in the background check system.⁴ An assault weapon ban would completely stop the first method for dealers in

² https://assets.senate.mn/working_group/2025-2026/1605_Senate_Gun_Violence_Prevention_Working_Group/Mohamed_AR-Ban-bill-language-draft.pdf

³ On August 27, 2025, a shooter fired 116 rounds from an AR-15 assault rifle into the Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis. He killed two children—Fletcher Merkel (8 years old) and Harper Moyski (10 years old)—and injured 23 people including 20 other children.

⁴ “Notably, most individuals who engaged in mass shootings used handguns (77.2%), and 25.1% used assault rifles in the commission of their crimes. Of the known mass shooting cases (32.5% of cases could not be confirmed), 77% of those who engaged in mass shootings purchased at least some of their guns legally, while illegal purchases were made by 13% of those committing mass shootings. In cases involving K-12 school shootings, over 80% of individuals who engaged in shootings stole guns from family members. The findings support safe storage of guns. Yet, the researchers noted that there are no federal laws requiring safe storage of guns, and no federal standards for firearm locks. The data also support ‘red flag’ laws permitting law enforcement or family members to petition a state court to order temporary removal of a firearm from a person who presents a danger.” (Source: “Public Mass Shootings: Database Amasses Details of a Half Century of U.S. Mass Shootings with Firearms, Generating Psychosocial Histories,” National Institute of Justice, 2/3/22, <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/public-mass-shootings-database-amasses-details-half-century-us-mass-shootings#:~:text=Notably%2C%20most%20individuals%20who%20engaged,stole%20guns%20from%20family%20members>)

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Minnesota. Other common-sense, gun control bills that are already approved and pending before the Legislature address the other two methods. No legislation will ever stop illegal gun sales. That's up to law enforcement and the courts.

Law-abiding gun owner beliefs: I believe most law-abiding gun owners are deeply concerned about reducing gun violence and how this violence traumatizes and affects our children. Yet, rather than “blame” the weapons, they insist that other factors like mental health and unsafe schools are actually at the root of mass shootings at schools. They argue that addressing those factors is the right approach; not bans. Many gun owners believe that the U.S. Supreme Court has determined that the Second Amendment protects assault weapons, and they maintain that they have an absolute right to own them even though the fact that ten states have had bans that have survived court challenges for decades proves this is false.⁵ Many feel attacked for defending their perceived, constitutionally protected right to own, use, and protect themselves and their families with these weapons. And they feel unjustly blamed for gun crimes committed by others.

The Mohamed bill makes it unlawful for a person to “manufacture, import, transfer, own, or possess large-capacity magazines, .50 caliber or larger firearms, or semiautomatic military-style assault weapons.” It lists logical exceptions for police departments and the military, and also exempts current owners of lawfully-acquired assault weapons provided they register and store them according to the law. The bill states that a person who violates the law “is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$25,000 or both.” The threat of penalties potentially so severe for something they feel is constitutionally protected can invoke rage among law-abiding owners.

Current Law, Definitions, and Terminology

Current restrictions on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines: The bill cites current restrictions on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines:

⁵ On June 26, 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed by a vote of 5 to 4 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *Heller v. District of Columbia* and established that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess firearms for self-defense in the home. The Court also specified that this protection extends to “arms” in common use for lawful purposes, such as self-defense, and that handguns are “arms” for the purposes of the Second Amendment. The decision does not protect weapons that are not “in common use” for lawful purposes, such as modern military weapons (source: <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/554/570/>).

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- Since 8/1/2023, it is illegal to purchase, possess, or transfer military-style assault weapons without a background check.
- The following are a selection of the general categories that describe people who are currently ineligible to possess military-style assault weapons (refer to Article 2, Sec.2, Subd. 1 of the bill in [Attachment 1](#) for the complete list of ineligible people):
 - o Younger than 18
 - o Convicted of a crime of violence
 - o Mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or chemically dependent
 - o An “illegal alien”
 - o A veteran with a dishonorable discharge
 - o A person subject to an “extreme risk” protection order

There are also very specific restrictions in current law regarding the sale, transfer, registration, background checks, record keeping, where the weapons can be carried and stored, and penalties for violating the law.⁶

Definition of “semiautomatic military-style assault weapon:” Article 1, Section 1, Subd. 7 (a) (1) lists 17 specific “semiautomatic rifle” types that are included in the ban. Subsequent sections include variations, modifications, and alternative manufacturers of these rifles in the ban. Article 1, Section 1, Subd. 7 (b) includes the following weapons:⁷

- Rifles, pistols, and shot guns with a detachable magazine and any of the following characteristics: A pistol grip, thumbhole stock, or a protruding grip; a barrel shroud; or a folding, telescoping, or thumbhole stock.
- A semiautomatic pistol with a non-detachable magazine that has a capacity greater than ten rounds.
- A conversion kit, part, or combination of parts, from which an assault weapon can be assembled if those parts are in the possession or under the control of the same person.

⁶ Minnesota does not have a central registry of firearms, so there is no state form that records the serial number of an assault weapon for a state registry. Permits to purchase a “semiautomatic military-style assault weapon” are required in Minnesota because of the state's universal background check law, which went into effect on 8/1/2023. This law requires a “Permit to Purchase” to buy these firearms, in addition to other types of firearms like pistols. Before this date, a permit was not required. Currently, the serial number is recorded during the transfer process whether the sale is from a federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL) or between private parties. The FFL dealer and both parties of a private purchase will record the permit number and the firearm’s serial number for their internal records, and keep it for at least ten years.

⁷ This is a general description. Refer to the actual language in the bill in [Attachment 1](#) for details.

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- Large-capacity magazines, which means “any ammunition feeding device with the capacity to accept more than ten rounds, or any conversion kit, part, or combination of parts from which this type of device can be assembled if those parts are in the possession or under the control of the same person.”
- A .50 caliber or larger firearm means a firearm “that is capable of expelling a metal projectile that measures one-half inch or larger in diameter but does not include an antique or replica firearm that uses black powder.”

Terminology and loss of “law-abiding” status: I use the term *law-abiding* to imply compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Current law-abiding owners can obtain an exception to the ban and have their legally obtained assault weapons *grandfathered* via compliance with the proposed regulations that require registration, safe storage, etc. However, if an owner of a grandfathered/registered weapon is convicted of a crime of violence, for example, they would lose their right to an exception from the ban, and be compelled to comply with the provisions in Article 1, Sec. 4, Subd. 5 (g):

- Surrender all banned weapon to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Modify them to be permanently inoperable, or, in the case of magazines, restrict them to accommodate 10 rounds or less.
- Remove them from the state.

For the sake of brevity, unless stated otherwise, I use the following words and terms: My use of the word *ban* refers to a state ban on the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. The Mohamed bill has a long list of “semiautomatic military-style assault weapons” that are included in the ban, including rifles, pistols, and shotguns. I use the term *AR-15-style rifles* to represent the weapons included in the ban, and the term *assault weapons* (or just *weapons*) to include high-capacity magazines (i.e., magazines with a capacity of more than ten rounds).

Common Arguments by Opponents of a Ban

Many gun owners believe that assault weapons bans demonize AR-15-style rifles and penalize those who own them:

There is a vibrant subculture of enthusiasts who enjoy modifying and upgrading their AR-15 rifles and sharing their experiences with others, much like those who modify cars or computers. They share a passion for the rifle platform's ability to be customized, its technology, and its functionality. They can be offended by the suggestion that there is something inherently immoral about these weapons and their attachment to them.

The rifle's design is built around a two-part system—the upper and lower receivers. The lower receiver, which contains the trigger and magazine well, is the serialized component considered to be the actual firearm. The upper receiver contains the barrel, bolt carrier group, and other components of the rifle. With the right tools and experience, a person can swap out for a barrel of a different length, caliber, or configuration. A variety of stocks and accessories are available (e.g., sights, scopes, grips, lasers, flashlights, suppressors, etc.). This flexibility, plus their high accuracy with minimal recoil, make AR-15-style rifles extremely popular for legal uses like sport shooting, small game hunting,⁸ and defense. Unfortunately, the ability of assault rifles to accommodate high-capacity magazines (up to 100 rounds each) makes them the weapon of choice for mass shooters.

After 1/1/2027, a law-abiding owner will have registered their assault weapons and are storing them appropriately, so there should be no implied shame in obeying the law if it is approved. Given the flexibility of the AR-15 rifle platform, the Mohamed bill will not affect owners' ability to modify the upper receiver of their grandfathered/registered rifles (i.e., lower receivers) to fit their changing needs.

Some law-abiding owners believe that bans penalize them by requiring registration, which, they believe, is a slippery slope to confiscation:

At meetings with legislators, we learned that some gun-rights voters harbor a deep fear and resentment against government, both federal and local. They believe they need their legally obtained, assault weapons to defend themselves, their families, and their property in the event the government attempts to confiscate them, or

⁸ Compared to the rounds typically used for hunting larger game (e.g., the 30.06 round), the 5.56 NATO round and its civilian companion round, the .223 Remington, are not as effective for deer, feral pigs, elk, bear, etc. They lack the 30.06 round's mass and energy, and they are designed to tumble upon impact and fragment. This makes them unsuitable for a "humane" kill at longer distances where preserving the meat is an important purpose of the hunt, but acceptable for destroying small game and varmints.

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attack their civil and property rights. They see registration as a step towards confiscation.

As regards the fear that an armed insurrection against the government would be necessary, I used Google AI to research this issue, and confirmed that the summary quoted below accurately summarizes the reliable news sources on which it was based:

Ultimately, an armed insurrection could result in significant destruction and loss of life but would not achieve the goal of overthrowing the U.S. government when faced with the full force of the modern U.S. military. These are the main reasons:

Military Superiority: The U.S. military has a vast arsenal of advanced weaponry, including tanks, attack helicopters, drones, advanced intelligence and surveillance systems, and robust communication networks. Civilian firearms, including AR-15s, are no match for this level of force.

Logistical Disadvantages: An insurrection force would lack a dedicated military manufacturing base, sustainable supply lines for ammunition and other necessities, and formal organizational leadership, all of which are critical for any sustained conflict.

Organizational and Command Structure: The military is a highly trained and organized force sworn to follow legal orders. A civilian insurrection would face significant challenges in coordination and command compared to a professional military organization.

Historical Context: Historically, successful revolutions or large-scale insurrections have almost always involved significant defection of professional soldiers and officers, or substantial foreign assistance. A purely civilian force, regardless of their weaponry, would lack the necessary experience and structure for success.

Nature of the Weaponry: While AR-15s and high-capacity magazines are lethal in civilian contexts like mass shootings, they are still semi-automatic weapons that are largely outmatched by the [weapons] used by the military and would be ineffective against armored vehicles and air power.

I don't see registration as a reasonable concern. Since 8/1/2024, the state has required buyers to obtain a Permit to Purchase that includes a background check, and the serial number is recorded by the buyer and seller during the transfer process. I would argue the state requires registration of vehicles, boats, campers, and even canoes.⁹ It's a reasonable requirement that enables the current legal

⁹ Minnesota requires vehicle registration (cars, boats, trailers) primarily for public safety, revenue generation (highway funds), and vehicle tracking/ownership verification, ensuring all vehicles on public roads pay taxes, have proper identification (plates/tabs), and are accounted for by the state for law enforcement and licensing purposes. This process funds road maintenance and establishes legal ownership, making it crucial for operating on public

owner to retain their *grandfathered* weapons, and continue to fire them at gun ranges and wherever it's legally allowed.¹⁰

Many gun owners believe that AR-15-style rifles are not “weapons of war:” In order to argue that the Second Amendment protects assault weapons, opponents of banning them must show that they are substantively different than “modern military weapons,” i.e., they are not “weapons of war.” The history of the AR-15 contradicts that belief. The original ArmaLite AR-15, designed by Eugene Stoner and his team 75 years ago in 1956, was a selective-fire, automatic rifle intended for military use. Later, the Colt Firearms Co. marketed it to the military as the M16 rifle. In 1964, Colt redesigned the AR-15 for civilian use as a semi-automatic version of the M16 (one round per trigger pull). The only significant difference between military and civilian assault rifles is that military rifles are capable of automatic fire, while civilian rifles are restricted to semiautomatic fire. However, the primary value of firing on automatic is for suppressive fire on the battlefield to enable maneuvering. It has no value for legal uses by civilians (i.e., sport shooting, hunting, and self-defense). When firing either military or civilian ammunition, AR-15-style rifles are actually more powerful than the military’s standard M4 assault rifle that replaced the M16.¹¹ What is more important is that this ammunition can tumble upon impact when it hits a human body and then fragment, which makes it horribly deadly.

Many gun owners believe that bans are ineffective, that other approaches are more effective, and that guns make us safer: Opponents to bans argue they are ineffective, and that it’s better to focus on improving mental health resources. In fact, studies refute this argument. As the ten states with assault weapons bans have experienced, the frequency and severity of gun violence is dramatically reduced when it becomes illegal to buy or transfer such a weapon. Bans are effective, especially if they are part of a comprehensive set of common-sense gun control regulations (e.g., red flag; safe storage; and closed loopholes for background checks, gun show sales, and ghost guns).¹² A 2024 study published by the Rockefeller Institute of Government concluded that the US suffered 109 public

streets and waterways.

¹⁰ In states with assault weapon bans, registering grandfathered weapons (those owned before the ban) serves to track these specific firearms, ensuring they remain in legal possession, preventing them from entering the illegal market, allowing law enforcement to trace crime guns, and often requiring secure storage or background checks for future transfers, ultimately limiting their circulation and future availability without confiscating them from current owners.

¹¹ The muzzle velocity of an AR-15 is not significantly different than for an M16 for both 5.56 NATO rounds and .223 Remington; and it has a greater muzzle velocity than the M4—7% greater firing 5.56 NATO rounds and 4% greater firing .223 Remington rounds.

mass shootings between 2000 and 2022, compared to a total of 35 in 35 other similarly developed countries.¹³ Our health problems aren't 109 times greater than these 35 other similarly developed countries. Our epidemic of mass shootings is a direct result of our lax gun laws, and especially our unique availability of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Given that there are more guns in circulation than people in America, if more guns led to fewer violent crimes, America would be the safest place in the world.

Instead of "either/or," a "both/and" approach is best. We should advocate for the assault weapons ban, but also recognize that investments in increased mental health resources, improved school safety (e.g., entrances secured by fob controls), and increased penalties for general gun assaults (not just assault weapons) are needed too.¹⁴

¹² States with restrictions on magazine size experience mass shootings at less than half the rate of states without restrictions (Source: Louis Klarevas, Andrew Conner, and David Hemenway, "The Effect of Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on High-Fatality Mass Shootings, 1990–2017," *American Journal of Public Health* 109, no. 12 (2019): 1754-61, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305311>). There are numerous studies that confirm that the federal assault weapons ban (1994-2004) was effective. Studies concluded that the risk of dying in a mass shooting was 70% lower than in the following decade after Congress killed the effort to extend it (Source: "Did the assault weapons ban of 1994 bring down mass shootings? Here's what the data tells us," Michael J. Klein, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York University, *The Conversation*, 6/8/22, <https://theconversation.com/did-the-assault-weapons-ban-of-1994-bring-down-mass-shootings-heres-what-the-data-tells-us-184430>). According to a study published in *Applied Economics Letters*, "[I]t was found that assault weapons bans in the states that approved them reduced the number of school shooting victims by 54.4%" (Source: "The effects of state and Federal gun control laws on school shootings," Mark Gius, *Applied Economics Letters*, 4/19/2017, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13504851.2017.1319555>). Similarly, a Johns Hopkins University study stated, "We found very encouraging effects. ... On a per capita basis, we see a 70% lower rate of individuals killed in mass shootings associated with state bans of [high-capacity magazines] (source: "Policies That Reduce Gun Violence: Restricting Large Capacity Magazines," Daniel Webster, Johns Hopkins University, 5/24, 2021, <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2021/policies-that-reduce-gun-violence-restricting-large-capacity-magazines#:~:text=Our%20estimate%20was%20that%20laws,is%20licensing%20for%20firearm%20purchasers%20>).

¹³ Source: "Public Mass Shootings Around the World: Prevalence, Context, and Prevention," Jason R. Silva, 2/20/24, *Rockefeller Institute of Government*, <https://rockinst.org/blog/public-mass-shootings-around-the-world-prevalence-context-and-prevention/>

¹⁴ Governor Walz's September proposal for a special session listed 9 policies and appropriations that he wanted approved during the session. All three of the above-listed measures were included in the Governor's proposal:

1. Assault weapons and high-capacity magazine ban.
2. Binary trigger ban.
3. Eliminate the ghost gun loophole.
4. Strengthen Extreme Risk Protection Orders, including increased funding for public outreach and education.
5. Expand school safety funding.
6. Increase funding for mental health treatment.
7. Strengthen prohibitions against domestic abusers to ensure they do not have access to firearms (HF 391).
8. Increase criminal penalties for violent offenses committed with a firearm and increased penalties for impersonating a police officer.
9. Increased funding for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Team.

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One of the legislators we met with suggested “packaging” the assault-weapons ban bill with those other measures to make it more palatable to those opposed to a ban. However, it is possible to combine a funding component with related regulation in a single bill in the Minnesota Legislature, particularly in the form of “omnibus bills;” however, the practice is constrained by the state’s “single subject” clause in the state Constitution. Article 4, Section 17 states that, “No law shall embrace more than one subject, which shall be expressed in its title.” The primary goal of this rule is to prevent “logrolling” (combining unrelated provisions to force a majority vote), and ensure transparency. It would seem that increased penalties for “general gun assaults” could be added to the Mohamed’s bill, but the funding required for “increased mental health resources and improved school safety” may be prohibited by the Constitution.

Many gun owners believe that bans prevent law-abiding people from firing these weapons: This is not true. Minnesota allows certain gun ranges to rent, for on-site-use only, a wide range of even fully-automatic, military weapons to people as young as 16 because certain federally licensed dealers are exempt from the state’s general prohibition on these weapons.¹⁵ The Mohamed bill could change the Minnesota regulations for these gun ranges to include on-site rental and use of the weapons included in the assault weapon ban so those who don’t own a “grandfathered” weapon and are prohibited from buying one after the ban goes into effect could fire them at these ranges. Thus, the ban would have no effect on legal owners’ rights to fire their weapons, and others could fire them at an appropriately licensed gun range. That would include sport shooting events that allow competitors to fire AR-15-style rifles.

Many gun owners believe that bans would prevent parents from teaching their children to use these weapons responsibly: The Mohamed bill would make it illegal after 1/1/2027 for a father, for example, to teach his daughter to use these weapons responsibly by letting her fire his rifle on their farm or on a range because this would be a form of “transfer.” The bill could include an exception for this kind of situation, i.e., a temporary “transfer” for the purposes of instruction or skill development provided the legal owner of the registered weapon is always on

¹⁵ This is made possible by a specific exception in Minnesota Statutes § 609.67. All federally regulated weapons, including machine guns, are also subject to federal law and oversight by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. For example, at Bill’s Gun Shop and Range, shooters 16 & 17 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. This federally licensed range offers over 40 different, fully-automatic machine guns. Source: <https://billsgs.com/rentals/#:~:text=Available%20Firearms-,Range%20Rentals,not%20included%20in%20this%20price.>

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site, the shooter is related by blood or marriage, and the firing takes place where it is legally allowed.

Bans would prevent parents from bequeathing their legally obtained weapons: There is a long-honored tradition of passing down firearms from parents to their children. Perhaps the ban on transfers could include a one-time exception for people related by blood, marriage, or perhaps a guardian provided the recipients pass a background check and continue to be “law-abiding.” Some states that ban the sale of assault weapons allow for the transfer and inheritance of existing, legally possessed firearms under specific conditions.¹⁶ Some may object to this suggestion since it would keep more banned weapons in the state for another generation.

Suggested Changes to the Mohamed Bill

The goal here is to minimize the impacts on law-abiding Minnesota weapon owners while maximizing the potential to reduce the accessibility of banned weapons from mass shooters.

1. **Split the bill in two:** Sen. John Marty wrote well-crafted bills in 2022 (SF 3377 and SF 3378) that covered virtually every common-sense gun restriction. It went nowhere. The DFL trifecta during the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions enabled the passage of numerous individual bills that enacted various components of Sen. Marty’s comprehensive bill. If the ban on high-capacity magazines was separated as an independent bill, it might have a chance at adoption even if the ban on assault weapons doesn’t.¹⁷
2. **Don’t grandfather high-capacity magazines:** High-capacity magazines (capacity larger than ten rounds) have no value for legal uses (sport shooting, hunting, defense). I would not allow them to be grandfathered.

¹⁶ The Washington State assault weapons ban (effective 2023) allows a person to inherit an assault weapon and keep it within the state. However, they cannot sell or transfer it to any other person in the state except to a licensed dealer, a gunsmith for repair, or law enforcement. The Connecticut ban allows registered assault weapons (those lawfully owned and registered before the 2013 ban) to be transferred through bequest or intestate succession (inheritance without a will). The individual who inherits the weapon must, within 90 days, apply for a new certificate of possession, render the firearm inoperable, sell it to a licensed dealer, or remove it from the state. The Delaware ban grandfathers assault weapons acquired before the ban (June 30, 2022) and allows them to be transferred to a family member.

¹⁷ Five states ban the sale of high-capacity magazines but do not have a statewide ban on assault weapons: Colorado, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

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3. **Buyback program:** Two bills introduced in the 2025 session, HF 2449 and SF 1596, include buyback programs for both assault weapons and high-capacity magazines (Attachment 2). If there was a separate bill that bans high-capacity magazines, inclusion of a buyback program for just them would be a relatively inexpensive enhancement.¹⁸
4. **Expanding legal weapons that can be rented at firing ranges and sport shooting events:** The bill could change the Minnesota regulations for licensed gun ranges to include on-site rental and use of the weapons included in an assault weapon ban so that those who don't own a grandfathered weapon and are prohibited from buying one after the ban goes into effect could fire them there. That would include sport shooting events that allow competitors to fire AR-15-style rifles.
5. **Adding weapons screening at firing ranges and sport shooting events:**
 - o Currently, operators of firing ranges and sport shooting events rely on a participant's signed waiver that they are not legally prohibited from possessing or using any of the firearms that they will bring or rent, and that they are not impaired by alcohol, illegal drugs, or certain medications. In the event the range operator discovers a participant lied on the waiver, for example, by bringing an illegal weapon onto the range, the operator is not authorized to seize or confiscate a person's private property. Only law enforcement officers have that authority. The operator must provide the person's identity (obtained from their photo ID and waiver) and details of the incident to the local law enforcement, which will determine if the weapon is indeed illegal and take the appropriate action. A range operator who knowingly allows the use of an illegal weapon could face potential legal repercussions or even risk the temporary or permanent closure of the range if the activity is deemed a clear and immediate safety hazard or a violation of state law.
 - o The Mohamed bill could amend Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 87A to require the operators of firing ranges and sport shooting events to confirm that a participant who seeks to fire a weapon that is banned by the Mohamed bill has complied with the bill's registration requirements for that weapon.
 - o In the event the operator discovers the participant has not registered the weapon, the operator is then bound by current law to notify the local authorities. This becomes another method of reducing the number of these banned weapons in the state.¹⁹

¹⁸ A typical 30-round magazine costs about \$16. While there may be many thousands of high-capacity magazines in the state already, a buyback program would not have to offer full pre-used value for these magazines.

Analysis of the Proposed Bill by Minnesota Senator Zaynab Mohamed for a State Ban on the Sale and Transfer of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

6. **Rely on current safe-storage regulations:** Article 1, Subd. 5 (b) (2) of the Mohamed bill requires current legal owners of assault weapons to “allow the appropriate law enforcement agency to inspect the storage of the device to ensure compliance with this subdivision.” Minnesota's firearm safe storage law does not allow police to conduct warrantless, on-site inspections of private homes to check for compliance. This provision in the bill will likely trigger privacy and search and seizure concerns. The bill could rely on current safe storage regulations instead.
7. **Expand transfer exceptions:** To reduce the impact on law-abiding people, the Mohamed bill could add the following exceptions to the ban on transfers:
 - o It could allow the one-time but permanent transfer of a grandfathered/registered weapon to a person who is related by blood, marriage, or perhaps a guardian provided the recipient passes a background check. Some may object to this suggestion since it would keep more banned weapons in the state for another generation.
 - o The bill could also create a “temporary transfer” to allow the owner of a grandfathered/registered weapon to loan it to another person for a brief time provided the owner is continually on site with the shooter, and the shooter has passed a background check. The owner must take possession of the weapon after the shooting session. There would be no limit on the times the owner uses this “temporary transfer” privilege.

Attachments

1. Sen. Zaynab Mohamed’s proposed bill to ban the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, 9/11/2025
2. SF 1596/HF 2449, 2025-26 Legislature
3. Veterans For Peace Support of a Minnesota Ban on the Sale and Transfer of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

¹⁹ The primary method of reduction is banning their sale. Confiscation could occur if an owner is convicted of a crime that would make them illegal to possess even a registered weapon. A third method is when transfer limits would be triggered, for example, via an inheritance.

ATTACHEMENT 1

Sen. Zaynab Mohamed's Proposed Bill to Ban the Sale and Transfer of Assault Weapons and High-capacity Magazines, 9/11/2025

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to public safety; banning possession of semiautomatic military-style assault
- 1.3 weapons, .50 caliber or larger firearms, and large capacity ammunition
- 1.4 magazines; 1.4 providing for criminal penalties; amending Minnesota Statutes
- 1.5 2024, sections
- 1.6 609.66, subdivision 1f; 624.712, subdivision 7, by adding subdivisions; 624.713,
- 1.7 subdivision 1; 624.7131, subdivisions 1, as amended, 10; 624.7132, subdivisions
- 1.8 1, as amended, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 15; 624.7134, subdivisions 2, 3, 4, 5; 624.7141,
- 1.9 subdivisions 1, 3; 624.7181, subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in
- 1.10 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 624.
- 1.11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

ARTICLE 1

- 1.12 **PROHIBITION ON POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FIREARMS**
- 1.13 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.712, subdivision 7, is amended
- 1.14 to read:
- 1.15 Subd. 7. **Semiautomatic military-style assault weapon.** (a) "Semiautomatic
- 1.16 military-style assault weapon" means:
- 1.17 (1) any of the following firearms:
- 1.18 (i) Avtomat Kalashnikov (AK-47) semiautomatic rifle type;
- 1.19 (ii) Beretta AR-70 and BM-59 semiautomatic rifle types;
- 1.20 (iii) Colt AR-15 semiautomatic rifle type;
- 1.21 (iv) Daewoo Max-1 and Max-2 semiautomatic rifle types;
- 1.22 (v) Famas MAS semiautomatic rifle type;
- 1.23 (vi) Fabrique Nationale FN-LAR and FN-FNC semiautomatic rifle types;
- 2.1 (vii) Galil semiautomatic rifle type;
- 2.2 (viii) Heckler & Koch HK-91, HK-93, and HK-94 semiautomatic rifle types;
- 2.3 (ix) Ingram MAC-10 and MAC-11 semiautomatic pistol and carbine types;
- 2.4 (x) Intratec TEC-9 semiautomatic pistol type;
- 2.5 (xi) Sigarms SIG 550SP and SIG 551SP semiautomatic rifle types;
- 2.6 (xii) SKS with detachable magazine semiautomatic rifle type;
- 2.7 (xiii) Steyr AUG semiautomatic rifle type;
- 2.8 (xiv) Street Sweeper and Striker-12 revolving-cylinder shotgun types;
- (xv) USAS-12 semiautomatic shotgun type;

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- 2.9 (xvi) Uzi semiautomatic pistol and carbine types; or
- 2.10 (xvii) Valmet M76 and M78 semiautomatic rifle types;
- 2.11 (2) any firearm that is another model made by the same manufacturer as one of the
- 2.12 firearms listed in clause (1), and has the same action design as one of the listed firearms,
- 2.13 and is a redesigned, renamed, or renumbered version of one of the firearms listed in clause
- 2.14 (1), or has a slight modification or enhancement, including but not limited to a folding or
- 2.15 retractable stock; adjustable sight; case deflector for left-handed shooters; shorter barrel;
- 2.16 wooden, plastic, or metal stock; larger clip size; different caliber; or a bayonet mount; and
- 2.17 (3) any firearm that has been manufactured or sold by another company under a licensing
- 2.18 agreement with a manufacturer of one of the firearms listed in clause (1) entered into after
- 2.19 the effective date of Laws 1993, chapter 326, to manufacture or sell firearms that are identical
- 2.20 or nearly identical to those listed in clause (1), or described in clause (2), regardless of the
- 2.21 company of production or country of origin.
- 2.22 The weapons listed in clause (1), except those listed in items (iii), (ix), (x), (xiv), and
- 2.23 (xv), are the weapons the importation of which was barred by the Bureau of Alcohol,
- 2.24 Tobacco, and Firearms of the United States Department of the Treasury in July 1989.
- 2.25 ~~Except as otherwise specifically provided in paragraph (d), a firearm is not a~~
- 2.26 ~~"semiautomatic military-style assault weapon" if it is generally recognized as particularly~~
- 2.27 ~~suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes under United States Code, title 18,~~
- 2.28 ~~section 925, paragraph (d)(3), or any regulations adopted pursuant to that law.~~
- 2.29 (b) Semiautomatic military-style assault weapon also includes any:
- 2.30 (1) semiautomatic rifle that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and has
- 2.31 one or more of the following:

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- 3.1 (i) a pistol grip or thumbhole stock;
- 3.2 (ii) any feature capable of functioning as a protruding grip that can be held by the
- 3.3 nontrigger hand;
- 3.4 (iii) a folding or telescoping stock; or
- 3.5 (iv) a shroud attached to the barrel, or that partially or completely encircles the barrel,
- 3.6 allowing the bearer to hold the firearm with the nontrigger hand without being burned, but
- 3.7 excluding a slide that encloses the barrel;
- 3.8 (2) semiautomatic pistol, or any semiautomatic, centerfire, or rimfire rifle with a fixed
- 3.9 magazine that has the capacity to accept more than ten rounds of ammunition;
- 3.10 (3) semiautomatic pistol that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and has
- 3.11 one or more of the following:
- 3.12 (i) any feature capable of functioning as a protruding grip that can be held by the
- 3.13 nontrigger hand;
- 3.14 (ii) a folding, telescoping, or thumbhole stock;
- 3.15 (iii) a shroud attached to the barrel, or that partially or completely encircles the barrel,
- 3.16 allowing the bearer to hold the firearm with the nontrigger hand without being burned, but
- 3.17 excluding a slide that encloses the barrel; or
- 3.18 (iv) the capacity to accept a detachable magazine at any location outside of the pistol
- 3.19 grip;
- 3.20 (4) semiautomatic shotgun that has one or more of the following:
- 3.21 (i) a pistol grip or thumbhole stock;
- 3.22 (ii) any feature capable of functioning as a protruding grip that can be held by the
- 3.23 nontrigger hand;
- 3.24 (iii) a folding or telescoping stock;
- 3.25 (iv) a fixed magazine capacity in excess of ten rounds; or
- 3.26 (v) an ability to accept a detachable magazine;
- 3.27 (5) shotgun with a revolving cylinder; or
- 3.28 (6) conversion kit, part, or combination of parts, from which an assault weapon can be
- 3.29 assembled if those parts are in the possession or under the control of the same person.

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- 4.1 Semiautomatic military-style assault weapon does not mean any firearm described in this
- 4.2 paragraph that has been made permanently inoperable.
- 4.3 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.712, is amended by adding a subdivision to 4.4 read:
- 4.5 Subd. 7a. **Large-capacity magazine.** "Large-capacity magazine" means any ammunition
- 4.6 feeding device with the capacity to accept more than ten rounds, or any conversion kit, part,
- 4.7 or combination of parts from which this type of device can be assembled if those parts are
- 4.8 in the possession or under the control of the same person. Large-capacity magazine does
- 4.9 not mean any of the following:
- 4.10 (1) a feeding device that has been permanently altered so that it cannot accommodate
- 4.11 more than ten rounds;
- 4.12 (2) a .22 caliber tube ammunition feeding device; or
- 4.13 (3) a tubular magazine that is contained in a lever-action firearm.
- 4.14 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.712, is amended by adding a subdivision to 4.15 read:
- 4.16 Subd. 7b. **.50 caliber or larger firearm.** ".50 caliber or larger firearm" means a firearm
- 4.17 that is capable of expelling a metal projectile that measures one-half inch or larger in diameter
- 4.18 but does not include an antique or replica firearm that uses black powder.
- 4.19 Sec. 4. **[624.7145] LARGE-CAPACITY MAGAZINES; .50 CALIBER OR LARGER**
- 4.20 **FIREARMS; SEMIAUTOMATIC MILITARY-STYLE ASSAULT WEAPONS;**
- 4.21 **PROHIBITION.**
- 4.22 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** As used in this section:
- 4.23 (1) "appropriate law enforcement agency" means the organized full-time police
- 4.24 department of the municipality where the person resides or the county sheriff if there is no
- 4.25 municipal police department where the person resides;
- 4.26 and
- 4.27 (2) "transfer" means a sale, gift, loan, assignment, or other delivery to another, whether
- 4.28 or not for consideration.
- 4.29 Subd. 2. **Prohibition.** It is unlawful for a person to manufacture, import, transfer, own,

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- 4.29 or possess large-capacity magazines, .50 caliber or larger firearms, or semiautomatic
- 4.30 military-style assault weapons.
- 5.1 **Subd. 3. Exceptions.** Subdivision 2 does not apply to:
- 5.2 (1) any government officer, agent, or employee; member of the armed forces of the
- 5.3 United States; or peace officer, to the extent that the person is otherwise authorized to acquire
- 5.4 or possess a large-capacity magazine, .50 caliber or larger firearm, or semiautomatic
- 5.5 military-style assault weapon and does so while acting within the scope of the person's
- 5.6 duties;
- 5.7 (2) the manufacture of a large-capacity magazine, .50 caliber or larger firearm, or
- 5.8 semiautomatic military-style assault weapon by a firearms manufacturer for the purpose of
- 5.9 sale to any branch of the armed forces of the United States or to a law enforcement agency
- 5.10 within Minnesota for use by that agency or its employees, provided the manufacturer is
- 5.11 properly licensed under applicable laws; or
- 5.12 (3) the transfer of a large-capacity magazine, .50 caliber or larger firearm, or
- 5.13 semiautomatic military-style assault weapon by a dealer that is properly licensed under
- 5.14 applicable laws to any branch of the armed forces of the United States or to a law enforcement
- 5.15 agency within Minnesota for use by that agency or its employees for law enforcement,
- 5.16 provided that the dealer does not have the large-capacity magazines, .50 caliber or larger
- 5.17 firearm, or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon in possession for more than 120
- 5.18 days from the date of acquisition to the date of delivery to the armed forces or law
- 5.19 enforcement purchaser.
- 5.20 **Subd. 4. Penalty.** A person who violates subdivision 2 is guilty of a felony and may be

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- 5.21 sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more
- 5.22 than \$25,000, or both.
- 5.23 **Subd. 5. Current owners; registration of large-capacity magazines, .50 caliber**
- 5.24 **firearms, and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons.** (a) A person who legally
- 5.25 owned or possessed a large-capacity magazine, .50 caliber or larger firearm, or semiautomatic
- 5.26 military-style assault weapon before January 1, 2027, and who desires to keep ownership
- 5.27 or possession of the device must immediately register the device with the appropriate law
- 5.28 enforcement agency.
- 5.29 (b) A person described in paragraph (a) must comply with all of the following:
- 5.30 (1) safely and securely store the device pursuant to the regulations adopted by the
- 5.31 appropriate law enforcement agency;
- 5.32 (2) agree to allow the appropriate law enforcement agency to inspect the storage of the
- 5.33 device to ensure compliance with this subdivision;
- 6.1 (3) renew the registration every three years;
- 6.2 (4) possess the device only on property owned or immediately controlled by the person,
- 6.3 or while engaged in the legal use of the device at a duly licensed firing range, or while
- 6.4 transporting the item in compliance with applicable law; and
- 6.5 (5) report the loss or theft of the device to the appropriate law enforcement agency within
- 6.6 48 hours of the time the discovery of the loss or theft was made or should have been made.
- 6.7 (c) Registered large-capacity magazines, .50 caliber or larger firearms, or semiautomatic
- 6.8 military-style assault weapons must not be transferred, except for transfer to the appropriate
- 6.9 law enforcement agency for the purpose of surrendering the item for destruction.
- 6.10 (d) The registered owner or possessor of a large-capacity magazine, .50 caliber or larger

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- 6.11 firearm, or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon must not purchase or receive
- 6.12 additional large-capacity magazines, .50 caliber or larger firearms, or semiautomatic
- 6.13 military-style assault weapons.
- 6.14 (e) The appropriate law enforcement agency may charge a fee for each registration and
- 6.15 registration renewal pursuant to this subdivision.
- 6.16 (f) Persons acquiring a large-capacity magazine, .50 caliber or larger firearms, or
- 6.17 semiautomatic military-style assault weapons by inheritance, bequest, or succession must,
- 6.18 within 120 days of acquiring title, do one of the following:
- 6.19 (1) surrender the device to the appropriate law enforcement agency for destruction;
- 6.20 (2) modify the device to render it permanently inoperable;
- 6.21 (3) for a large-capacity magazine, permanently alter the device so it cannot accommodate
- 6.22 more than ten rounds; or
- 6.23 (4) remove the device from the state.
- 6.24 (g) A person who owned or possessed a large-capacity magazine, .50 caliber or larger
- 6.25 firearm, or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon before January 1, 2027, who does
- 6.26 not wish to register the device as required in this subdivision must immediately do one of
- 6.27 the following:
- 6.28 (1) surrender the device to the appropriate law enforcement agency for destruction;
- 6.29 (2) modify the device to render it permanently inoperable;
- 6.30 (3) for a large-capacity magazine, permanently alter the device so it cannot accommodate
- 6.31 more than ten rounds; or
- 7.1 (4) remove the device from the state.
- 7.2 (h) Each chief of police and sheriff must do the following regarding large-capacity
- 7.3 magazines, .50 caliber or larger firearms, or semiautomatic military-style assault weapons
- 7.4 registered under this subdivision:

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- 7.5 (1) adopt regulations specifying how a person who registers a large-capacity magazine,
- 7.6 .50 caliber or larger firearm, or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon must safely
- 7.7 and securely store the device when the device is not being used;
- 7.8 (2) inspect the storage of large-capacity magazines, .50 caliber or larger firearms,
- 7.9 semiautomatic military-style assault weapons, or more than one of these devices as
- 7.10 applicable; and
- 7.11 (3) implement a registration system.
- 7.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2026, and applies to crimes
- 7.13 committed on or after that date.
- 7.14

ARTICLE 2

CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

- 7.15
- 7.16 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.66, subdivision 1f, is amended to read:
- 7.17 Subd. 1f. **Gross misdemeanor; transferring firearm without background check.** A
- 7.18 person, other than a federally licensed firearms dealer, who transfers a pistol or semiautomatic
- 7.19 ~~military-style assault weapon~~ to another without complying with the transfer requirements
- 7.20 of section 624.7132, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor if the transferee possesses or uses the
- 7.21 weapon within one year after the transfer in furtherance of a felony crime of violence, and 7.22 if:
- 7.23 (1) the transferee was prohibited from possessing the weapon under section 624.713 at 7.24 the time of the transfer; or
- 7.25 (2) it was reasonably foreseeable at the time of the transfer that the transferee was likely
- 7.26 to use or possess the weapon in furtherance of a felony crime of violence.
- 7.27 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.713, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- 7.28 Subdivision 1. **Ineligible persons.** The following persons shall not be entitled to possess
- 7.29 ammunition or a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon or, except for clause 7.30 (1), any other firearm:

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- 8.1 (1) a person under the age of 18 years except that a person under 18 may possess
- 8.2 ammunition designed for use in a firearm that the person may lawfully possess and may
- 8.3 carry or possess a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon (i) ~~in the actual~~
- 8.4 ~~presence or under the direct supervision of the person's parent or guardian, (ii)~~ for the
- 8.5 purpose of military drill under the auspices of a legally recognized military organization
- 8.6 and under competent supervision, ~~(iii)~~ or (ii) for the purpose of instruction, competition, or
- 8.7 target practice on a firing range approved by the chief of police or county sheriff in whose 8.8 jurisdiction the range is located and under direct supervision; ~~or (iv).~~ A person under 18
- 8.9 may possess ammunition designed for use in a firearm that the person may lawfully possess
- 8.10 and may carry or possess a pistol if the person (i) has successfully completed a course
- 8.11 designed to teach marksmanship and safety with a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style~~
- 8.12 ~~assault weapon~~ and approved by the commissioner of natural resources, or (ii) is in the
- 8.13 actual presence or under the direct supervision of the person's parent or guardian;
- 8.14 (2) except as otherwise provided in clause (9), a person who has been convicted of, or
- 8.15 adjudicated delinquent or convicted as an extended jurisdiction juvenile for committing, in
- 8.16 this state or elsewhere, a crime of violence. For purposes of this section, crime of violence
- 8.17 includes crimes in other states or jurisdictions which would have been crimes of violence
- 8.18 as herein defined if they had been committed in this state;
- 8.19 (3) a person who is or has ever been committed in Minnesota or elsewhere by a judicial
- 8.20 determination that the person is mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or mentally ill and 8.21 dangerous to the public, as defined in section 253B.02, to a treatment facility, or who has

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8.22 ever been found incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of mental illness, unless

8.23 the person's ability to possess a firearm and ammunition has been restored under subdivision

8.24 4;

8.25 (4) a person who has been convicted in Minnesota or elsewhere of a misdemeanor or

8.26 gross misdemeanor violation of chapter 152, unless three years have elapsed since the date

8.27 of conviction and, during that time, the person has not been convicted of any other such

8.28 violation of chapter 152 or a similar law of another state; or a person who is or has ever

8.29 been committed by a judicial determination for treatment for the habitual use of a controlled

8.30 substance or marijuana, as defined in sections 152.01 and 152.02, unless the person's ability 8.31 to possess a firearm and ammunition has been restored under subdivision 4;

8.32 (5) a person who has been committed to a treatment facility in Minnesota or elsewhere

8.33 by a judicial determination that the person is chemically dependent as defined in section

8.34 253B.02, unless the person has completed treatment or the person's ability to possess a

9.1 firearm and ammunition has been restored under subdivision 4. Property rights may not be 9.2 abated but access may be restricted by the courts;

9.3 (6) a peace officer who is informally admitted to a treatment facility pursuant to section

9.4 253B.04 for chemical dependency, unless the officer possesses a certificate from the head

9.5 of the treatment facility discharging or provisionally discharging the officer from the

9.6 treatment facility. Property rights may not be abated but access may be restricted by the 9.7 courts;

9.8 (7) a person, including a person under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, who has

9.9 been charged with committing a crime of violence and has been placed in a pretrial diversion

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9.10 program by the court before disposition, until the person has completed the diversion program

9.11 and the charge of committing the crime of violence has been dismissed;

9.12 (8) except as otherwise provided in clause (9), a person who has been convicted in

9.13 another state of committing an offense similar to the offense described in section 609.224, 9.14 subdivision 3, against a family or household member or section 609.2242, subdivision 3,

9.15 unless three years have elapsed since the date of conviction and, during that time, the person

9.16 has not been convicted of any other violation of section 609.224, subdivision 3, or 609.2242, 9.17 subdivision 3, or a similar law of another state;

9.18 (9) a person who has been convicted in this state or elsewhere of assaulting a family or

9.19 household member and who was found by the court to have used a firearm in any way

9.20 during commission of the assault is prohibited from possessing any type of firearm or

9.21 ammunition for the period determined by the sentencing court;

9.22 (10) a person who:

9.23 (i) has been convicted in any court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term

9.24 exceeding one year;

9.25 (ii) is a fugitive from justice as a result of having fled from any state to avoid prosecution

9.26 for a crime or to avoid giving testimony in any criminal proceeding;

9.27 (iii) is an unlawful user of any controlled substance as defined in chapter 152. The use

9.28 of medical cannabis flower or medical cannabinoid products by a patient enrolled in the

9.29 registry program or the use of adult-use cannabis flower, adult-use cannabis products,

9.30 lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products by a person 21 years of

9.31 age or older does not constitute the unlawful use of a controlled substance under this item;

10.1 (iv) has been judicially committed to a treatment facility in Minnesota or elsewhere as

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10.2 a person who is mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or mentally ill and dangerous to the

10.3 public, as defined in section 253B.02;

10.4 (v) is an alien who is illegally or unlawfully in the United States;

10.5 (vi) has been discharged from the armed forces of the United States under dishonorable 10.6 conditions;

10.7 (vii) has renounced the person's citizenship having been a citizen of the United States;

10.8 or

10.9 (viii) is disqualified from possessing a firearm under United States Code, title 18, section 10.10 922(g)(8) or (9), as amended through March 1, 2014;

10.11 (11) a person who has been convicted of the following offenses at the gross misdemeanor

10.12 level, unless three years have elapsed since the date of conviction and, during that time, the

10.13 person has not been convicted of any other violation of these sections: section 609.229

10.14 (crimes committed for the benefit of a gang); 609.2231, subdivision 4 (assaults motivated

10.15 by bias); 609.255 (false imprisonment); 609.378 (neglect or endangerment of a child);

10.16 609.582, subdivision 4 (burglary in the fourth degree); 609.665 (setting a spring gun); 609.71

10.17 (riot); or 609.749 (harassment or stalking). For purposes of this paragraph, the specified

10.18 gross misdemeanor convictions include crimes committed in other states or jurisdictions

10.19 which would have been gross misdemeanors if conviction occurred in this state;

10.20 (12) a person who has been convicted of a violation of section 609.224 if the court

10.21 determined that the assault was against a family or household member in accordance with

10.22 section 609.2242, subdivision 3 (domestic assault), unless three years have elapsed since

10.23 the date of conviction and, during that time, the person has not been convicted of another

10.24 violation of section 609.224 or a violation of a section listed in clause (11);

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10.25 (13) a person who is subject to an order for protection as described in section 260C.201, 10.26 subdivision 3, paragraph (d), or 518B.01, subdivision 6, paragraph (g); or

10.27 (14) a person who is subject to an extreme risk protection order as described in section

10.28 624.7172 or 624.7174.

10.29 A person who issues a certificate pursuant to this section in good faith is not liable for

10.30 damages resulting or arising from the actions or misconduct with a firearm or ammunition

10.31 committed by the individual who is the subject of the certificate.

10.32 The prohibition in this subdivision relating to the possession of firearms other than

10.33 pistols and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons does not apply retroactively to

11.1 persons who are prohibited from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault 11.2 weapon under this subdivision before August 1, 1994.

11.3 The lifetime prohibition on possessing, receiving, shipping, or transporting firearms and

11.4 ammunition for persons convicted or adjudicated delinquent of a crime of violence in clause

11.5 (2), applies only to offenders who are discharged from sentence or court supervision for a

11.6 crime of violence on or after August 1, 1993.

11.7 Participation as a patient in the registry program or use of adult-use cannabis flower,

11.8 adult-use cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer

11.9 products by a person 21 years of age or older does not disqualify the person from possessing 11.10 firearms and ammunition under this section.

11.11 For purposes of this section, "judicial determination" means a court proceeding pursuant

11.12 to sections 253B.07 to 253B.09 or a comparable law from another state.

11.13 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7131, subdivision 1, as amended by Laws

11.14 2025, chapter 38, article 3, section 79, is amended to read:

11.15 Subdivision 1. **Information.** Any person may apply for a transferee permit by providing

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- 11.16 the following information in writing to the chief of police of an organized full time police
- 11.17 department of the municipality in which the person resides or to the county sheriff if there
- 11.18 is no such local chief of police:
- 11.19 (1) the name, residence, telephone number, and driver's license number or
- 11.20 nonqualification certificate number, if any, of the proposed transferee;
- 11.21 (2) the sex, date of birth, height, weight, and color of eyes, and distinguishing physical
- 11.22 characteristics, if any, of the proposed transferee;
- 11.23 (3) a statement that the proposed transferee authorizes the release to the local police
- 11.24 authority of commitment information about the proposed transferee maintained by the Direct
- 11.25 Care and Treatment executive board, to the extent that the information relates to the proposed
- 11.26 transferee's eligibility to possess a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~
- 11.27 under section 624.713, subdivision 1; and
- 11.28 (4) a statement by the proposed transferee that the proposed transferee is not prohibited
- 11.29 by section 624.713 from possessing a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~.
- 11.30 The statements shall be signed and dated by the person applying for a permit. At the
- 11.31 time of application, the local police authority shall provide the applicant with a dated receipt
- 11.32 for the application. The statement under clause (3) must comply with any applicable
- Article 2 Sec. 3.
- 12.1 requirements of Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, sections 2.31 to 2.35, with respect
- 12.2 to consent to disclosure of alcohol or drug abuse patient records.
- 12.3 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7131, subdivision 10, is amended to read:
- 12.4 Subd. 10. **Transfer report not required.** A person who transfers a pistol ~~or~~
- 12.5 ~~semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~ to a person exhibiting a valid transferee permit

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- 12.6 issued pursuant to this section or a valid permit to carry issued pursuant to section 624.714
- 12.7 is not required to file a transfer report pursuant to section 624.7132, subdivision 1.
- 12.8 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7132, subdivision 1, as amended by Laws
- 12.9 2025, chapter 38, article 3, section 81, is amended to read:
- 12.10 Subdivision 1. **Required information.** Except as provided in this section and section
- 12.11 624.7131, every person who agrees to transfer a pistol ~~or semiautomatic-military-style~~
- 12.12 ~~assault weapon~~ shall report the following information in writing to the chief of police of
- 12.13 the organized full-time police department of the municipality where the proposed transferee
- 12.14 resides or to the appropriate county sheriff if there is no such local chief of police:
- 12.15 (1) the name, residence, telephone number, and driver's license number or
- 12.16 nonqualification certificate number, if any, of the proposed transferee;
- 12.17 (2) the sex, date of birth, height, weight, and color of eyes, and distinguishing physical
- 12.18 characteristics, if any, of the proposed transferee;
- 12.19 (3) a statement that the proposed transferee authorizes the release to the local police
- 12.20 authority of commitment information about the proposed transferee maintained by the Direct
- 12.21 Care and Treatment executive board, to the extent that the information relates to the proposed
- 12.22 transferee's eligibility to possess a pistol ~~or semiautomatic-military-style-assault weapon~~
- 12.23 under section 624.713, subdivision 1;
- 12.24 (4) a statement by the proposed transferee that the transferee is not prohibited by section
- 12.25 624.713 from possessing a pistol ~~or semiautomatic-military-style-assault weapon~~; and
- 12.26 (5) the address of the place of business of the transferor.
- 12.27 The report shall be signed and dated by the transferor and the proposed transferee. The

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- 12.28 report shall be delivered by the transferor to the chief of police or sheriff no later than three
- 12.29 days after the date of the agreement to transfer, excluding weekends and legal holidays.
- 12.30 The statement under clause (3) must comply with any applicable requirements of Code of
- 12.31 Federal Regulations, title 42, sections 2.31 to 2.35, with respect to consent to disclosure of 12.32 alcohol or drug abuse patient records.
- Article 2 Sec. 5.
- 13.1 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7132, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
- 13.2 Subd. 3. **Notification.** The chief of police or sheriff shall notify the transferor and
- 13.3 proposed transferee in writing as soon as possible if the chief or sheriff determines that the 13.4 proposed transferee is prohibited by section 624.713 from possessing a pistol or
- 13.5 semiautomatic military-style assault weapon. The notification to the transferee shall specify
- 13.6 the grounds for the disqualification of the proposed transferee and shall set forth in detail
- 13.7 the transferee's right of appeal under subdivision 13.
- 13.8 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7132, subdivision 4, is amended to read:
- 13.9 Subd. 4. **Delivery.** Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 7 or 8, no person shall
- 13.10 deliver a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon to a proposed transferee
- 13.11 until 30 days after the date the agreement to transfer is delivered to a chief of police or
- 13.12 sheriff in accordance with subdivision 1 unless the chief of police or sheriff waives all or
- 13.13 a portion of the waiting period. The chief of police or sheriff may waive all or a portion of
- 13.14 the waiting period in writing if the chief of police or sheriff: (1) determines the proposed
- 13.15 transferee is not disqualified prior to the waiting period concluding; or (2) finds that the
- 13.16 transferee requires access to a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon because

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- 13.17 of a threat to the life of the transferee or of any member of the household of the transferee.
- 13.18 Prior to modifying the waiting period under the authority granted in clause (2), the chief of
- 13.19 police or sheriff must first determine that the proposed transferee is not prohibited from
- 13.20 possessing a firearm under state or federal law.
- 13.21 No person shall deliver a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~ to a
- 13.22 proposed transferee after receiving a written notification that the chief of police or sheriff
- 13.23 has determined that the proposed transferee is prohibited by section 624.713 from possessing
- 13.24 a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~.
- 13.25 If the transferor makes a report of transfer and receives no written notification of
- 13.26 disqualification of the proposed transferee within 30 business days after delivery of the
- 13.27 agreement to transfer, the pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~ may be
- 13.28 delivered to the transferee, unless the transferor knows the transferee is ineligible to possess
- 13.29 a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~.
- 13.30 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7132, subdivision 5, is amended to read:
- 13.31 Subd. 5. **Grounds for disqualification.** (a) The chief of police or sheriff shall deny an
- 13.32 application if the proposed transferee is: (1) prohibited by state or federal law from possessing
- 13.33 a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~; (2) determined to be a danger to
- Article 2 Sec. 8.
- 14.1 self or the public when in possession of firearms under paragraph (b); or (3) listed in the
- 14.2 criminal gang investigative data system under section 299C.091.
- 14.3 (b) A chief of police or sheriff shall deny an application if there exists a substantial
- 14.4 likelihood that the proposed transferee is a danger to self or the public when in possession

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14.5 of a firearm. To deny the application under this paragraph, the chief of police or sheriff

14.6 must provide the applicant with written notification and the specific factual basis justifying 14.7 the denial, including the source of the factual basis. The chief of police or sheriff must

14.8 inform the applicant of the applicant's right to submit, within 20 business days, any additional

14.9 documentation relating to the propriety of the denial. Upon receiving any additional

14.10 documentation, the chief of police or sheriff must reconsider the denial and inform the

14.11 applicant within 15 business days of the result of the reconsideration. Any denial after

14.12 reconsideration must be in the same form and substance as the original denial and must

14.13 specifically address any continued deficiencies in light of the additional documentation

14.14 submitted by the applicant. The applicant must be informed of the right to seek de novo

14.15 review of the denial as provided in subdivision 13.

14.16 (c) A chief of police or sheriff need not process an application under this section if the

14.17 person has had an application denied pursuant to paragraph (b) and less than six months

14.18 have elapsed since the denial was issued or the person's appeal under subdivision 13 was

14.19 denied, whichever is later.

14.20 (d) A chief of police or sheriff who denies an application pursuant to paragraph (b) must

14.21 provide a copy of the notice of disqualification to the chief of police or sheriff with joint

14.22 jurisdiction over the applicant's residence.

14.23 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7132, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

14.24 Subd. 10. **Restriction on records.** Except as provided for in section 624.7134, subdivision

14.25 3, paragraph (e), if, after a determination that the transferee is not a person prohibited by

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14.26 section 624.713 from possessing a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon,

14.27 a transferee requests that no record be maintained of the fact of who is the transferee of a

14.28 pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon, the chief of police or sheriff shall

14.29 sign the transfer report and return it to the transferee as soon as possible. Thereafter, no

14.30 government employee or agency shall maintain a record of the transfer that identifies the

14.31 transferee, and the transferee shall retain the report of transfer.

Article 2 Sec. 9.

15.1 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7132, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

15.2 Subd. 12. **Exclusions.** Except as otherwise provided in section 609.66, subdivision 1f,

15.3 this section shall not apply to transfers of antique firearms as curiosities or for their historical

15.4 significance or value, transfers to or between federally licensed firearms dealers, transfers

15.5 by order of court, involuntary transfers, transfers at death or the following transfers:

15.6 (1) a transfer by a person other than a federally licensed firearms dealer;

15.7 (2) a loan to a prospective transferee if the loan is intended for a period of no more than 15.8 one day;

15.9 (3) the delivery of a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon to a person

15.10 for the purpose of repair, reconditioning or remodeling;

15.11 (4) a loan by a teacher to a student in a course designed to teach marksmanship or safety

15.12 with a pistol and approved by the commissioner of natural resources;

15.13 (5) a loan between persons at a firearms collectors exhibition;

15.14 (6) a loan between persons lawfully engaged in hunting or target shooting if the loan is

15.15 intended for a period of no more than 12 hours;

15.16 (7) a loan between law enforcement officers who have the power to make arrests other 15.17 than citizen arrests; and

15.18 (8) a loan between employees or between the employer and an employee in a business

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15.19 if the employee is required to carry a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~

15.20 by reason of employment and is the holder of a valid permit to carry a pistol.

15.21 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7132, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

15.22 Subd. 15. **Penalties.** (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), a person who

15.23 does any of the following is guilty of a gross misdemeanor:

15.24 (1) transfers a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~ in violation of

15.25 subdivisions 1 to 13;

15.26 (2) transfers a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~ to a person who

15.27 has made a false statement in order to become a transferee, if the transferor knows or has

15.28 reason to know the transferee has made the false statement;

15.29 (3) knowingly becomes a transferee in violation of subdivisions 1 to 13; or

15.30 (4) makes a false statement in order to become a transferee of a pistol ~~or semiautomatic~~

15.31 ~~military-style assault weapon~~ knowing or having reason to know the statement is false.

Article 2 Sec. 11.

16.1 (b) A person who does either of the following is guilty of a felony:

16.2 (1) transfers a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~ to a person under

16.3 the age of 18 in violation of subdivisions 1 to 13; or

16.4 (2) transfers a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~ to a person under

16.5 the age of 18 who has made a false statement in order to become a transferee, if the transferor

16.6 knows or has reason to know the transferee has made the false statement.

16.7 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7134, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

16.8 Subd. 2. **Background check and evidence of identity.** An unlicensed person is prohibited

16.9 from transferring a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~ to any other

16.10 unlicensed person, unless: (1) the transfer is made through a firearms dealer as provided

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16.11 for in subdivision 3; or (2) the transferee presents a valid transferee permit issued under

16.12 section 624.7131 and a current state or federally issued identification.

16.13 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7134, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

16.14 Subd. 3. **Background check conducted by federally licensed firearms dealer.** (a)

16.15 Where both parties to a prospective transfer of a pistol ~~or semiautomatic-military-style~~

16.16 ~~assault weapon~~ are unlicensed persons, the transferor and transferee may appear jointly

16.17 before a federally licensed firearms dealer with the firearm and request that the federally

16.18 licensed firearms dealer conduct a background check on the transferee and facilitate the 16.19 transfer.

16.20 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a federally licensed firearms dealer

16.21 who agrees to facilitate a transfer under this section shall:

16.22 (1) process the transfer as though transferring the firearm from the dealer's inventory to 16.23 the transferee; and

16.24 (2) comply with all requirements of federal and state law that would apply if the firearms

16.25 dealer were making the transfer, including at a minimum all background checks and record

16.26 keeping requirements. The exception to the report of transfer process in section 624.7132,

16.27 subdivision 12, clause (1), does not apply to transfers completed under this subdivision.

16.28 (c) If the transferee is prohibited by federal law from purchasing or possessing the firearm

16.29 or not entitled under state law to possess the firearm, neither the federally licensed firearms

16.30 dealer nor the transferor shall transfer the firearm to the transferee. Article 2 Sec. 13.

17.1 (d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, this section shall not prevent the

17.2 transferor from:

17.3 (1) removing the firearm from the premises of the federally licensed firearms dealer, or

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17.4 the gun show or event where the federally licensed firearms dealer is conducting business,
17.5 as applicable, while the background check is being conducted, provided that the transferor
17.6 must return to the federally licensed firearms dealer with the transferee before the transfer
17.7 takes place, and the federally licensed firearms dealer must take possession of the firearm
17.8 in order to complete the transfer; and
17.9 (2) removing the firearm from the business premises of the federally licensed firearms
17.10 dealer if the results of the background check indicate the transferee is prohibited by federal
17.11 law from purchasing or possessing the firearm or not entitled under state law to possess the 17.12 firearm.
17.13 (e) A transferee who consents to participate in a transfer under this subdivision is not
17.14 entitled to have the transfer report returned as provided for in section 624.7132, subdivision 17.15 10.
17.16 (f) A firearms dealer may charge a reasonable fee for conducting a background check 17.17 and facilitating a transfer between the transferor and transferee pursuant to this section.
17.18 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7134, subdivision 4, is amended to read:
17.19 Subd. 4. **Record of transfer; required information.** (a) Unless a transfer is made
17.20 through a firearms dealer as provided for in subdivision 3, when two unlicensed persons
17.21 complete the transfer of a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~, the transferor
17.22 and transferee must complete a record of transfer on a form designed and made publicly
17.23 available without fee for this purpose by the superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal
17.24 Apprehension. Each page of the record of transfer must be signed and dated by the transferor
17.25 and the transferee and contain the serial number of the pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style~~ 17.26 ~~assault weapon~~.
17.27 (b) The record of transfer must contain the following information:

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17.28 (1) a clear copy of each person's current state or federally issued identification;
17.29 (2) a clear copy of the transferee permit presented by the transferee; and
17.30 (3) a signed statement by the transferee swearing that the transferee is not
currently 17.31 prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm.

Article 2 Sec. 14.

18.1 (c) The record of transfer must also contain the following information regarding the

18.2 transferred pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~:

18.3 (1) the type of pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~;

18.4 (2) the manufacturer, make, and model of the pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style~~

18.5 ~~assault weapon~~; and

18.6 (3) the ~~pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon's~~ pistol's

18.7 manufacturer-assigned serial number.

18.8 (d) Both the transferor and the transferee must retain a copy of the record of transfer

18.9 and any attachments to the record of transfer for 10 years from the date of the transfer. A

18.10 copy in digital form shall be acceptable for the purposes of this paragraph.

18.11 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7134, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

18.12 Subd. 5. **Compulsory production of a record of transfer; misdemeanor penalty.** (a)

18.13 Unless a transfer was completed under subdivision 3, the transferor and transferee of a pistol

18.14 ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~ transferred under subdivision 4 must produce

18.15 the record of transfer when a peace officer requests the record as part of a criminal 18.16 investigation.

18.17 (b) A person who refuses or is unable to produce a record of transfer for a firearm

18.18 transferred under this section in response to a request for production made by a peace officer 18.19 pursuant to paragraph (a) is guilty of a misdemeanor. A prosecution or conviction for

18.20 violation of this subdivision is not a bar to conviction of, or punishment for, any other crime 18.21 committed involving the transferred firearm.

18.22 (c) This subdivision applies to records of transfers of semiautomatic military-style assault

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18.23 weapons under this section occurring before January 1, 2027.

18.24 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7141, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

18.25 Subdivision 1. **Transfer prohibited.** (a) A person is guilty of a felony and may be

18.26 sentenced to imprisonment for up to two years and to payment of a fine of not more than

18.27 \$10,000 if the person intentionally transfers a firearm to another and the person knows or

18.28 reasonably should know that the transferee:

18.29 (1) has been denied a permit to carry under section 624.714 because the transferee is

18.30 not eligible under section 624.713 to possess a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault~~ 18.31 ~~weapon~~ or any other firearm;

Article 2 Sec. 16.

19.1 (2) has been found ineligible to possess a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault~~

19.2 ~~weapon~~ by a chief of police or sheriff as a result of an application for a transferee permit 19.3 or a transfer report; or

19.4 (3) is disqualified under section 624.713 from possessing a pistol ~~or semiautomatic~~

19.5 ~~military-style assault weapon~~ or any other firearm.

19.6 (b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to the transfer of a firearm other than a pistol ~~or~~

19.7 ~~semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~ to a person under the age of 18 who is not

19.8 disqualified from possessing any other firearm.

19.9 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7141, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

19.10 Subd. 3. **Subsequent eligibility.** This section is not applicable to a transfer to a person

19.11 who became eligible to possess a pistol ~~or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon~~

19.12 under section 624.713 after the transfer occurred but before the transferee used or possessed

19.13 the weapon in furtherance of any crime.

19.14 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7181, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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19.15 Subd. 2. **Penalties.** Whoever carries a BB gun, rifle, or shotgun on or about
the person
19.16 in a public place is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. A person under the age of
21 who carries
19.17 a semiautomatic military-style assault weapon, as defined in section 624.712,
subdivision
19.18 7, on or about the person in a public place is guilty of a felony.
Article 2 Sec. 18.

ATTACHMENT 2

SF 1596/HF 2449, 2025-26 Legislature

A bill for an act
relating to public safety; prohibiting the sale or transfer of a semiautomatic
military-style assault weapon; authorizing a buyback program for semiautomatic
military-style assault weapons; appropriating money; amending Minnesota
Statutes

2024, section 624.712, subdivision 7; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
Statutes, chapter 624.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1.

Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.712, subdivision 7, is amended to
read:

Subd. 7.

Semiautomatic military-style assault weapon.

(a) "Semiautomatic
military-style assault weapon" means:

(1) any of the following firearms:

- (i) Avtomat Kalashnikov (AK-47) semiautomatic rifle type;
- (ii) Beretta AR-70 and BM-59 semiautomatic rifle types;
- (iii) Colt AR-15 semiautomatic rifle type;
- (iv) Daewoo Max-1 and Max-2 semiautomatic rifle types;
- (v) Famas MAS semiautomatic rifle type;
- (vi) Fabrique Nationale FN-LAR and FN-FNC semiautomatic rifle types;
- (vii) Galil semiautomatic rifle type;
- (viii) Heckler & Koch HK-91, HK-93, and HK-94 semiautomatic rifle types;
- (ix) Ingram MAC-10 and MAC-11 semiautomatic pistol and carbine types;
- (x) Intratec TEC-9 semiautomatic pistol type;
- (xi) Sigarms SIG 550SP and SIG 551SP semiautomatic rifle types;
- (xii) SKS with detachable magazine semiautomatic rifle type;
- (xiii) Steyr AUG semiautomatic rifle type;
- (xiv) Street Sweeper and Striker-12 revolving-cylinder shotgun types;
- (xv) USAS-12 semiautomatic shotgun type;
- (xvi) Uzi semiautomatic pistol and carbine types; or
- (xvii) Valmet M76 and M78 semiautomatic rifle types;

(2) any firearm that is another model made by the same manufacturer as
one of the

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firearms listed in clause (1), and has the same action design as one of the listed firearms,
and is a redesigned, renamed, or renumbered version of one of the firearms listed in clause

(1), or has a slight modification or enhancement, including but not limited to a folding or retractable stock; adjustable sight; case deflector for left-handed shooters; shorter barrel;
wooden, plastic, or metal stock; larger clip size; different caliber; or a bayonet mount; and

(3) any firearm that has been manufactured or sold by another company under a licensing agreement with a manufacturer of one of the firearms listed in clause (1) entered into after the effective date of Laws 1993, chapter 326, to manufacture or sell firearms that are identical or nearly identical to those listed in clause (1), or described in clause (2), regardless of the company of production or country of origin.

The weapons listed in clause (1), except those listed in items (iii), (ix), (x), (xiv), and (xv), are the weapons the importation of which was barred by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms of the United States Department of the Treasury in July 1989.

Except as otherwise specifically provided in paragraph (d), a firearm is not a ~~"semiautomatic military-style assault weapon"~~ if it is generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes under United States Code, title 18, section 925, paragraph (d)(3), or any regulations adopted pursuant to that law.

(b) Semiautomatic military-style assault weapon also includes any:
(1) semiautomatic rifle that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and has
one or more of the following:

(i) a pistol grip or thumbhole stock;

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(ii) any feature capable of functioning as a protruding grip that can be held by the nontrigger hand;

(iii) a folding or telescoping stock; or

(iv) a shroud attached to the barrel, or that partially or completely encircles the barrel, allowing the bearer to hold the firearm with the nontrigger hand without being burned, but excluding a slide that encloses the barrel;

(2) semiautomatic pistol, or any semiautomatic, centerfire, or rimfire rifle with a fixed magazine that has the capacity to accept more than ten rounds of ammunition;

(3) semiautomatic pistol that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and has one or more of the following:

(i) any feature capable of functioning as a protruding grip that can be held by the nontrigger hand;

(ii) a folding, telescoping, or thumbhole stock;

(iii) a shroud attached to the barrel, or that partially or completely encircles the barrel, allowing the bearer to hold the firearm with the nontrigger hand without being burned, but excluding a slide that encloses the barrel; or

(iv) the capacity to accept a detachable magazine at any location outside of the pistol grip;

(4) semiautomatic shotgun that has one or more of the following:

(i) a pistol grip or thumbhole stock;

(ii) any feature capable of functioning as a protruding grip that can be held by the nontrigger hand;

(iii) a folding or telescoping stock;

(iv) a fixed magazine capacity in excess of ten rounds; or

(v) an ability to accept a detachable magazine;

(5) shotgun with a revolving cylinder; or

(6) conversion kit, part, or combination of parts from which an assault weapon can be

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assembled if those parts are in the possession or under the control of the same person.

Semiautomatic military-style assault weapon does not mean any firearm described in this paragraph that has been made permanently inoperable.

Sec. 2.

[624.7145] SEMIAUTOMATIC MILITARY-STYLE ASSAULT WEAPONS; TRANSFER PROHIBITED.

Subdivision 1.

Definition.

As used in this section, "transfer" means a sale, gift, loan, assignment, or other delivery to another, whether or not for consideration.

Subd. 2.

Prohibition.

It is unlawful for a person to transfer a semiautomatic military-style assault weapon.

Subd. 3.

Exceptions.

Subdivision 2 does not apply to a transfer:

(1) between any government officer, agent, or employee; member of the armed forces

of the United States; or peace officer for official use by the recipient; or

(2) by a dealer that is properly licensed under applicable laws to any branch of the armed forces of the United States or to a law enforcement agency within Minnesota for use by that agency or its employees for law enforcement.

Subd. 4.

Penalty.

A person who violates subdivision 2 is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$25,000, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE.

This section is effective August 1, 2024, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Sec. 3. SEMIAUTOMATIC MILITARY-STYLE ASSAULT WEAPON BUYBACK PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION.

Subdivision 1.

Program established.

(a) The commissioner of public safety shall establish a statewide buyback program to purchase semiautomatic military-style assault weapons.

The program must accept any semiautomatic military-style assault weapon offered, regardless of the weapon's physical condition, and pay reimbursement at a rate set by the commissioner.

To implement this section, the commissioner may collaborate with state and local law

enforcement agencies to provide buyback locations throughout the state.

(b) A person participating in this program is not in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 624.7145, subdivision 2.

Subd. 2.

Appropriation.

\$..... in fiscal year 2026 and \$..... in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of public safety to implement this section.



Veterans For Peace Chapter 27 612-821-9141

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Support of a Minnesota Ban on the Sale and Transfer of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

Updated: 9/23/2025

What we want. We want the Legislature to approve a ban on the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, which would make Minnesota the eleventh state to do so. These mass “killing machines,” especially assault rifles, are semiautomatic versions of weapons created for deadly battlefield purposes. We know they are the weapon of choice for mass murderers, responsible for most of the devastating mass shootings, including mass shootings in our schools. An analysis of public mass shootings resulting in four or more deaths found that more than 85% of such fatalities were caused by assault rifles.¹ An assailant with an assault rifle is able to hurt and kill twice the number of people compared to an assailant with a non-assault rifle or handgun.² An article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* stated, “AR-15 bullets can penetrate the soft body armor typically worn by police, which is built to stop handgun rounds.”³

Veterans know first-hand the damage these weapons of war cause. One Vietnam vet described how two young Vietnamese boys planted a bomb on his fire support base that went off prematurely. The assault rifle rounds fired by his fellow Marines literally ripped and exploded the boys’ bodies to shreds as they tried to escape. An Army medic in Vietnam described how an M16 round entered the left wrist of an attacking enemy soldier, traveled along his arm, through his chest and abdomen, and finally exited out the top of his right thigh.

Such horror stories aren’t limited to veterans. An emergency room doctor said damage done by assault rifle bullets looks like a grenade went off in a body, while damage from a 9mm handgun bullet looks like a bad knife cut. The gunman with assault weapons at a Las Vegas concert fired 1,000 rounds in ten minutes, murdering 60 people and injuring nearly 900. The damage was so devastating for the victims of the Robb Elementary School massacre in Uvalde, Texas, parents had to submit DNA swabs to identify the remains of their children.⁴ Using his legally acquired assault rifle, the shooter at Annunciation Church and School in Minneapolis on 8/27/25 fired 116 high-powered, military rounds in just a few minutes killing 2 children and wounding 23 people including 20 children.

We know that bans are legal and effective. Numerous studies confirm that national and state bans save lives. When we had a nationwide, assault-weapons ban (1994-2004), the risk of dying in a mass shooting was 70% lower than in the following decade after Congress killed the effort to extend it.⁵ According to a study published in *Applied Economics Letters*, “[I]t was found that assault weapons bans in the states that approved them reduced the number of school shooting victims by 54.4%.⁶ Similarly, a Johns Hopkins University study stated, “We found very encouraging effects. ... On a per capita basis, we see a 70% lower rate of individuals killed in mass shootings associated with state bans of [high-capacity magazines].”⁷

We know that the experts and Minnesotans want them. A 2022 poll found that 54% of Minnesota voters wanted a ban on assault weapons, and 57% favored stopping the sale of high-capacity magazines.⁸ Gov. Walz has also voiced his strong support.^{9,10} The mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul and seven other cities stated support for a ban, and the city councils of Minneapolis and West St. Paul approved formal resolutions in support. The following supporters of a state ban submitted gun violence prevention proposals for the 9/15/25 hearing of the Minnesota Senate Gun Violence Prevention Working Group:¹¹

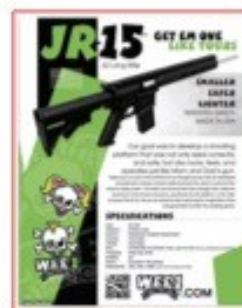
- Minnesota Medical Association (10,000 members)
- Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (3,000 members)
- Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (1,000 members)

Proposed Bills Before the Legislature and Veterans For Peace Position Paper

Support of a Minnesota Ban on the Sale and Transfer of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

- Children's Defense Fund Minnesota
- Minnesota Parent-Teacher Associations
- School psychologists, Jessie Kember, Ph.D., Anna Li, Ph.D., and Mollie Weeks, Ph.D.
- Multicultural Autism Action Network
- Protect Minnesota
- Giffords Law Center

We know the gun industry is about profit not protection. Their ghoulish marketing now targets women and children even though the plague of gun violence is the leading cause of death for American youth.¹² Our schools—with their regular, lock-down drills—have become a place of fear for our children. Yet the industry's latest weapon is a smaller assault rifle for kids, the JR15, that fires a .22 caliber round. Advertising includes the company's logo that features child skulls with rifle crosshairs for eyes and a pacifier.



It's about the guns. When it comes to mass shootings, it's about banning these weapons of war, not some imaginary Second Amendment right to buy them,¹³ nor the dodge of blaming inadequate mental health services,¹⁴ nor the lie that AR-15-style rifles are not "weapons of war." When firing either military or civilian ammunition, AR-15-style rifles are actually more powerful than the military's standard-issue, M4 assault rifle that replaced the M16. What is more important is that this ammunition can tumble and fragment upon impact, which makes them horribly deadly. It's about our citizens—especially our children—and the lives that would be saved by this ban.

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For more information, see Everytown for Gun Safety, <https://www.everytown.org>, Brady, <https://www.bradyunited.org>, and Giffords, <https://giffords.org/?s=assault+weapons>. Two Washington Post articles provide graphic explanations of the grizzly effects of high-powered, assault weapon rounds.¹⁵

¹ Source: Giffords, https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/assault-weapons/#footnote_1_5603.

² Source: Giffords, *ibid*.

³ Source: "A 'good guy with a gun' doesn't stand much of a chance against an AR-15 style rifle and body armor," Ralph A. Weber, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 6/14/2022.

⁴ Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/06/02/remarks-by-president-biden-on-gun-violence-in-america/#:~:text=The%20damage%20was%20so%20devastating,and%20those%20under%20restraining%20orders.>

⁵ Source: "Did the assault weapons ban of 1994 bring down mass shootings? Here's what the data tells us," Michael J. Klein, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York University, *The Conversation*, 6/8/22, <https://theconversation.com/did-the-assault-weapons-ban-of-1994-bring-down-mass-shootings-heres-what-the-data-tells-us-184430>

⁶ "The effects of state and Federal gun control laws on school shootings," Mark Gius, *Applied Economics Letters*, 4/19/2027, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13504851.2017.1319555>

⁷ "Policies That Reduce Gun Violence: Restricting Large Capacity Magazines," Daniel Webster, Johns Hopkins University, 5/24, 2021, <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2021/policies-that-reduce-gun-violence-restricting-large-capacity-magazines/#:~:text=Our%20estimate%20was%20that%20laws,is%20licensing%20for%20firearm%20purchasers%20.>

⁸ "New MinnPost poll shows majority support for stronger gun laws in the state following Uvalde massacre," Greta Kaul, *MinnPost*, 06/10/2022, <https://www.minnpost.com/politics-policy/2022/06/new-minnpost-poll-shows-majority-support-for-stronger-gun-laws-in-the-state-following-uvalde-massacre/>

⁹ "Walz makes gun control central to pitch for third term: In Congress, Gov. Tim Walz received an "A" rating from the NRA. Now he wants action to curb gun violence," Allison Kite, *Minnesota Star Tribune*, 9/17/2025, <https://www.startribune.com/a-look-at-walz-political-evolution-on-guns-as-he-launches-governor-bid/601475196>

¹⁰ Source: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2025/09/19/gov-walz-interview-running-for-third-term>

¹¹ Source: <https://www.senate.mn/schedule/senate/20250917>

¹² Source: "Preventing firearm violence and injuries impacting children and teens," Centers for Disease Control, 12/16/24, <https://www.cdc.gov/firearm-violence/php/research-summaries/children-and-teen-impacts.html#:~:text=Introduction,19%20in%202020%20and%202021.>

¹³ On June 26, 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed by a vote of 5 to 4 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *Heller v. District of Columbia* and established that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess firearms for self-defense in the home. The Court also specified that this protection extends to "arms" in common use for lawful purposes, such as self-defense, and that handguns are "arms" for the purposes of the Second Amendment. The decision does not protect weapons that are not "in common use" for lawful purposes, such as modern military weapons.¹³

¹⁴ Claiming it's a mental health issue is just a dodge. The Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans cut \$11.4 billion from various mental and behavioral health services that Democrats in Congress were able to approve over Republican opposition during the prior four years. Blaming inadequate mental health services is just bait-and-switch propaganda from the gun lobby and the NRA

¹⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-force-mass-shootings/?itid=ik_inline_manual_2&itid=ik_inline_manual_2
https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-damage-to-human-body/?itid=ik_inline_enhanced-template