

FACT SHEET

Violence Reduction & Gun Safety Package of 2018

S. 221-- EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS

S.221 authorizes the State to petition the court for an extreme risk protection order to remove a person's access to weapons, including guns, if he or she poses an imminent danger to self or others. This is a lifesaving tool that can prevent gun tragedies, such as suicides or murders, before they occur.

S.422 – REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

More than half of all of the domestic violence related fatalities in Vermont are committed with a firearm. S. 422 improves the ability of law enforcement to remove firearms from the scene of a domestic violence crime, with due process. This law will better protect domestic violence victims and their children.

S.55 -- OVERVIEW FOR GUN OWNERS

S.55 includes gun safety provisions relating to background checks; safety training; bump stocks; and magazine capacity.

S.55 **DOES NOT** require anyone to turnover any type of firearm or magazine. S.55 **DOES NOT** ban, or make illegal, any specific type of firearm.

S.55 **DOES NOT** change possession laws (including for those under 21). The legal requirements for owning and possessing a firearm have not changed. S. 55 does change the age to purchase firearms, however, if you are 18-20, you may still purchase firearms if you:

- Have completed a firearm safety course as approved by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife;
- Are a member of law enforcement; or
- Are a member or veteran of the military.

Nothing in S.55 affects prior purchase, possession or use of firearms. Youth in Vermont may legally possess firearms at age 16, or earlier with the consent of parent or guardian. Young Vermonters can still hunt, recreationally shoot, etc.

S.55 -- UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

All guns can be purchased at gun stores/from FFLs at a gun show in the same manner as before. This legislation only extends the background check process to transfers between unlicensed parties.

Guns given or sold to family members (spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, stepsibling, grandparent, step grandparent, grandchild, step grandchild, great grandparent, step great grandparent, greatgrandchild, and step great grandchild) are not subject to background check requirements.

This legislation **DOES NOT** apply to certain antiques and replicas or muzzle loaders designed to use black powder and which cannot use fixed ammunition

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S.55 -- HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES

High capacity magazines, belt, drum, feed strip or similar device that has a capacity of more than 10 rounds for long guns and 15 rounds for handguns will no longer be available from Vermont FFLs beginning October 1, 2018.

However, magazines – of any capacity –**REMAIN LEGAL** to own, possess and use. You **DO NOT** need to prove purchase or possession before enactment of this legislation.

The legislation **DOES NOT** prohibit:

- An attached tubular device with capacity for .22 caliber rimfire ammunition;
- Magazines manufactured or sold for use by a lever or bolt action long gun or by an antique firearm;
- Magazines for firearms sold as curios or relics as defined by the ATF.

S. 55 permits Vermonters to travel freely out of and back into Vermont with high-capacity magazines legally purchased from any source prior to the effective date of the legislation and purchased from Vermont FFLs prior to October 1, 2018. Residents of other states may continue to transport high-capacity magazines legally purchased in other states to Vermont for shooting competitions and firearm training events through June 30, 2019.

High capacity magazines may be sold/transferred to a law enforcement officer for law enforcement purposes, whether the officer is on or off duty.

S.55 -- BUMP STOCKS

Possession of bump stocks is prohibited by this legislation after October 1, 2018.

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