



2023-2024 Session Anti-Gun Legislation – PA House & Senate

1. **Assault Weapon Bans/Restrictions** – HB335 / HB336 / SB214
2. **Universal/Mandatory Background Checks** – HB714 / HB766 / SB60
3. **Article V Constitutional Convention** – HB37 / HB458 / SR51 / SR52 / SR77
4. **Mandatory Storage Laws** – HB713 / HB731 / SB427 / SB431 / SB457
5. **Elimination of Preemption** – HB217
6. **License to Purchase Handguns/Age Restrictions** – HB690 / HB898 / SB65
7. **Ammunition Purchase/Capacity Restrictions** – HB586 / HB738
8. **Waiting Periods** – HB337
9. **Gun Registries/Ghost Guns** – HB776 / HB777 / SB48 / SB49
10. **PFA/Red Flag/Extreme Risk Due Process Violations** – HB226 / HB835 / SB204
11. **Gun Free Zones** – HB465 / HB644 / HB912 / SB53 / SB536
12. **Mandatory Reporting/Liability** – HB338 / HB712 / HB941 / SB220 / SB281 / SB461
13. **Repealing Stand Your Ground** – SB424

Item #1 Analysis: **Assault Weapons Ban** – *HB335 / HB336 / SB214* – This legislation bans a vast variety of gas operated semi-automatic firearms with little to no actual knowledge of what they are discussing. Firearms are banned essentially for their appearance and characteristics regardless of modern sporting use. Catch all phraseology ensures a wide net of firearms despite their extremely limited use in crime. The term “assault weapon” is a psychological attack on semi-automatic sporting firearms that has uninformed voters convinced they are military, select-fire (full auto) firearms.

Item #2 Analysis: **Universal/Mandatory Background Checks** – *HB714 / HB766 / SB60* – Despite long term evidence that background checks do nothing to curb violence, the opposition continues to convince the moderate voter uninformed on these matters that these checks will stop criminals. The problem is criminals don’t attain guns legally in the first place. These bills would eradicate the private sales of rifles and shotguns, punishing law abiding citizens 100%, criminals 0%.

Item #3 Analysis: **Article V Constitutional Convention** - *HB37 / HB458 / SR51 / SR52 / SR77* - is an effort that at first blush to most conservatives seems aimed at good goals: term limits, balanced budgets, etc etc... the problem is the U.S. Constitution already has systems in place to do those. Opening the Constitution for a re-write or popular opinion amendment could be the largest threat to the 2nd Amendment in the history of this nation.

Item #4 Analysis: **Mandatory Storage Laws** – *HB713 / HB731 / SB427 / SB431 / SB457* – Mandatory Storage will cost lives. Statistics show that in every state that enforces mandatory storage, major categories of violent crime spike upwards in occurrences. Victims are unable to access storage devices in a time of need which leaves more rape victims, robbery victims, and murder victims 100% of the time.

Item #5 Analysis: **Elimination of Preemption** – *HB217* - Elimination of preemption would effectively terminate the firearms preemption that prohibits a convoluted web of local ordinances governing firearms. This is also a violation of the Pennsylvania Constitution which states that laws must be uniform across the Commonwealth. This is a cornerstone goal of anti-gun groups across Pennsylvania, because once done anything goes.

Item #6 Analysis: **License to Purchase Handguns/Age Restrictions** – *HB690 / HB898 / SB65* – This legislation would turn our Constitutional right into a privilege by creating a separate and onerous licensing procedure just to purchase and possess a firearm. Beyond that, legislation adding age restrictions to purchases denies citizens of military service age equality as guaranteed by the Constitution. Old enough for military service they have earned the rights of ALL adult American citizens.

Item #7 Analysis: Ammunition Purchase/Capacity Restrictions – HB586 / HB738 – Restricting, licensing, or recording ammunition purchases is simply infringing Constitutional rights by removing or controlling supply for the firearms industry. Magazine capacity restrictions will do nothing to slow criminals and everything to victimize the law-abiding citizens of the nation. Efforts to register ammunition by micro-stamping and registering purchases will increase ammunition costs exponentially. This has become a main target for anti-gun agenda's nationwide thinking to increase costs of firearms ownership to make it prohibitive. Large capacity magazines have been under attack for years and though most mass murders are committed with semi-automatic handguns, the modern sporting rifle magazines will continue to garner the most attention.

Item #8 Analysis: Waiting Periods – HB337 – The average time to crime for a firearm is measured in years, not days. Again, this will leave law-abiding citizens vulnerable in a time of need while criminals do as they please since 90% do not legally purchase firearms anyway. Instead this law will victimize the law-abiding citizen purchasing a firearm for protection from a known or potential threat.

Item #9 Analysis: Gun Registries/Ghost Guns – HB776 / HB777 / SB48 / SB49 – Gun registries have served practically every tyrannical government in recent history while doing next to nothing to stop crime. The risk is too high for the limited reward the registry could offer. And "ghost guns" are a mythical being. An extremely large portion of long guns have no ownership recorded and we must admit the fact that serial numbers on firearms do not stop crime. They rarely even trace the path of the firearm to the criminal.

Item #10 Analysis: PFA/Red Flag/Extreme Risk Due Process Violations – HB226 / HB835 / SB204 – The PFA system in Pennsylvania is a blatant affront to due process. ERPO's or Red Flag Laws will only increase the outrageous number of times citizens' due process rights are ignored in the name of "a little temporary safety" that may occasionally be gained from these violations of the Constitution. PFA's are abused routinely to violate the rights of citizens and red flag, or extreme risk protection orders will only multiply the number of occurrences against gun owners. These are gun confiscation orders activated by a mere "preponderance of evidence", which is the lowest standard of evidence. You do not get a chance to defend yourself till ten days after seizure. Guilty until proven innocent and these can be granted unlimited extensions!

Item #11 Analysis: Gun Free Zones – HB465 / HB644 / HB912 / SB53 / SB536 – If there is anything the history of "gun free zones" has taught us it's not to be there. Mass murderers target "gun free zones" in 90% or more of mass murders using firearms. Expanding target rich environments for killers is the opposite of making people safer in America. These bills range from banning lawful firearms carry in polling locations, recreational areas such as parks and public rec facilities, and even courthouses, where we currently at least have the right to carry TO the courthouse and secure the firearm on site till we depart.

Item #12 Analysis: Mandatory Reporting/Liability – HB338 / HB712 / HB941 / SB220 / SB281 / SB461 – These bills do everything from re-victimizing the victim over a lost or stolen firearm to punishing parents for the criminal acts of their children, whether they had signs of pending tragedy or not. Failure to report lost or stolen firearms will result in either criminal or civil punishments for the victim depending on which bill. It ignores the fact that there may be several logical and reasonable reasons for the victim to NOT report the firearm lost or stolen, some of which may even put the victim's life in danger.

Item #13 Analysis: Repealing Stand Your Ground – SB424 – A severe threat to the law-abiding armed citizen in Pennsylvania, greatly clouding the standards by which an armed citizen would know when the use of force in defense of oneself or another's life is legally justified. This law is critically important to eliminate randomized rulings by district attorneys across the Commonwealth and abiding by the Constitutional requirement of consistency of law.

Summary of Bills to oppose: HR37, HR73, HB217, HB226, HR335, HB336, HB337, HB338, HB355, HB458, HB465, HB483, HB584, HB586, HB644, HB690, HB712, HB713, HB714, HB731, HB737, HB738, HB766, HB776, HB777, HB821, HB835, HB898, HB912, HB941, SR23, SB48, SB49, SR51, SR52, SB53, SB57, SB60, SB65, SR77, SB204, SB214, SB220, SB281, SB424, SB427, SB431, SB457, SB461, SB536.