SPONSOR: Sen. Sokola & Sen. Sturgeon & Sen. Townsend & Rep. Chukwuocha
Sens. Gay, Hansen, S. McBride, Pinkney, Poore; Reps. Baumbach, Bentz, Griffith, Heffernan, Kowalko, Lynn, Minor-Brown, Morrison

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 6
AS AMENDED BY
SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 1, HOUSE AMENDMENT NO. 1,
AND HOUSE AMENDMENT NO. 2

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO DEADLY WEAPONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend Subchapter VII, Chapter 5, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

~~§§ 1464-1469. [Reserved.]~~

§ 1465. Definitions related to large-capacity magazines.

For purposes of this section and §§ 1466 and 1467 of this title:

(1) "Ammunition feeding device" means any magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that holds ammunition for a firearm.

(2)a. "Large-capacity magazine" means any ammunition feeding device capable of accepting, or that can readily be converted to hold, more than 17 rounds of ammunition.

b. "Large-capacity magazine" does not include an attached tubular device designed to accept, and only capable of operating with, .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.

(3) "Licensed firearms dealer" means a person licensed under Chapter 9 of Title 24 or 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq.

(4) "Qualified retired law-enforcement officer" means as defined under § 1441B(c) of this title.

§ 1466. Large-capacity magazines prohibited; class E felony.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, it is unlawful for a person to manufacture, sell, offer for sale, purchase, receive, transfer, or possess a large-capacity magazine.

(b)(1) A violation of this section is a class E felony.

(2) A large-capacity magazine is subject to forfeiture for a violation of this section.

(c) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(1) Personnel of the United States government or a unit of that government who are acting within the scope of official business.

(2) Members of the armed forces of the United States or of the National Guard who are acting within the scope of official business.

(3) A law-enforcement officer.

(4) A qualified retired law-enforcement officer.

(5) An individual who holds a valid concealed carry permit issued by the Superior Court under § 1441 of this title.

(6) A licensed firearms dealer that sells a large-capacity magazine to another licensed firearms dealer or to an individual exempt under paragraphs (c)(1) through (5) of this section.

(d)(1) The Secretary of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security ("Secretary") shall establish and administer a compensation program for residents of this State to allow a resident in possession of a large-capacity magazine on [the effective date of this Act] to relinquish the large-capacity magazine to the Department of Safety and Homeland Security ("Department") or a participating local law-enforcement agency in exchange for a monetary payment established under this subsection.

(2) The Secretary shall adopt rules to implement the compensation program, including the following:

a. That the compensation program be implemented between [the effective date of this Act] and June 30, 2023, at locations throughout this State. The Department shall coordinate with local law-enforcement agencies in implementing the program.

b. That the compensation program allows a resident to relinquish a large-capacity magazine to the Department, or a local law-enforcement agency participating in the program, in exchange for a compensation in the amount of $10 for each large-capacity magazine.

c. That establishes the method for providing the monetary payment and reimbursing a participating law-enforcement agency for payments made to residents under the compensation program.

d. That the compensation program is subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this specific purpose by the General Assembly. This subsection does not create a right or entitlement in a resident to receive a monetary payment under the compensation program.

(3) The Secretary shall submit a report to the General Assembly by December 29, 2023, providing the results of the compensation program, including the number of large-capacity magazines relinquished to law-enforcement agencies, by county, and the total amount expended under the program.

§ 1467. Possession of a large-capacity magazine during the commission of a felony; class B felony.

(a) It is unlawful for a person to possess a large-capacity magazine during the commission of a felony.

(b) Possession of a large-capacity magazine during the commission of a felony is a class B felony.

(c) A person may be found guilty of violating this section notwithstanding that the felony for which the person is convicted and during which the person possessed the large-capacity magazine is a lesser included felony of the one originally charged.

§§ 1468-1469. [RESERVED].

Section 2. The sum of $45,000 is appropriated from the General Fund in Fiscal Year 2023 for the purpose of providing compensation for the purchase of large-capacity magazines by the Department of Safety and Homeland Security under Section 1 of this Act.

Section 3. If any provision of this Act or the application of this Act to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the provisions of this Act are severable if the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

Section 4. This Act is to be known as the "Delaware Large-Capacity Magazine Prohibition Act of 2022."

Section 5. This Act takes effect 60 days after its enactment into law.

Section 6. Section § 1466(d) of Title 11, as contained in Section 1 of this Act, expires on January 1, 2024.

Ssynopsis

This Substitute Act creates the Delaware Large-Capacity Magazine Prohibition Act of 2022, which does the following:

(1) Includes a clear definition for the term "large-capacity magazine" as an ammunition feeding device with a capacity to accept more than 17 rounds of ammunition.

(2) Prohibits the manufacture, sale, offer for sale, purchase, receipt, transfer, or possession of a large-capacity magazine. Violation of this prohibition is a class E felony.

(3) Prohibits the possession of a large-capacity magazine during the commission of a felony. Violation of this prohibition is a class B felony.

This Substitute Act also establishes a buyback program for large-capacity magazines, to be overseen by the Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

Author: Senator Sokola