

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3398

To prohibit the purchase, ownership, or possession of enhanced body armor
by civilians, with exceptions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MENG, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To prohibit the purchase, ownership, or possession of
enhanced body armor by civilians, with exceptions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Aaron Salter, Jr., Re-
5 sponsible Body Armor Possession Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. BAN ON PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP, OR POSSESSION**
2 **OF ENHANCED BODY ARMOR BY CIVILIANS;**
3 **EXCEPTIONS.**

4 (a) BAN.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18,
6 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
7 end the following:

8 **“§ 935. Ban on purchase, ownership, or possession of**
9 **enhanced body armor by civilians**

10 “(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall be
11 unlawful for a person to purchase, own, or possess en-
12 hanced body armor.

13 “(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to—

14 “(1) a purchase, ownership, or possession by or
15 under the authority of—

16 “(A) the United States or any department
17 or agency of the United States;

18 “(B) a State, or a department, agency, or
19 political subdivision of a State; or

20 “(C) a Tribe or law enforcement agency of
21 a Tribe;

22 “(2) a covered law enforcement officer; or

23 “(3) enhanced body armor that was lawfully
24 possessed by any person at any time before the date
25 this section takes effect.

1 “(c) In this section, the term ‘covered law enforce-
2 ment officer’—

3 “(1) has the meaning given the term ‘qualified
4 law enforcement officer’ in section 926B and the
5 term ‘qualified retired law enforcement officer’ in
6 section 926C; and

7 “(2) includes corrections officers.”.

8 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
9 tions for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code,
10 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“935. Ban on purchase, ownership, or possession of enhanced body armor by
civilians.”.

11 (b) ENHANCED BODY ARMOR DEFINED.—Section
12 921(a) of such title is amended by adding at the end the
13 following:

14 “(39) The term ‘enhanced body armor’ means
15 body armor, including a helmet or shield, the bal-
16 listic resistance of which meets or exceeds the bal-
17 listic performance of RF1 armor, determined using
18 such standard as the National Institute of Justice
19 has in effect at the time at which a person pur-
20 chases, owns, or possesses such armor.”.

21 (c) PENALTIES.—Section 924(a) of such title is
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(9) Whoever knowingly violates section 935
2 shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more
3 than 5 years, or both.”.

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