

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8297

To restore and protect the Second Amendment rights of residents and United States citizens who visit the District of Columbia by modernizing the District's firearm laws, eliminating prior restraints on acquisition and possession, establishing concealed constitutional carry, prohibiting feature-based firearm bans, and facilitating lawful purchases through Federally licensed dealers in neighboring States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2026

Mr. CRENSHAW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To restore and protect the Second Amendment rights of residents and United States citizens who visit the District of Columbia by modernizing the District's firearm laws, eliminating prior restraints on acquisition and possession, establishing concealed constitutional carry, prohibiting feature-based firearm bans, and facilitating lawful purchases through Federally licensed dealers in neighboring States, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “District of Columbia
3 Firearm Freedom Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Article I, section 8, clause 17 of the Con-
7 stitution grants Congress plenary legislative author-
8 ity over the District of Columbia.

9 (2) The Second Amendment protects an individ-
10 ual’s right to keep and bear arms, and the District
11 must maintain laws consistent with that constitu-
12 tional guarantee.

13 (3) United States citizens visiting the National
14 Capital and those who reside or work in the District
15 should not have their constitutionally protected Sec-
16 ond Amendment rights infringed.

17 (4) The District’s regulatory structure has im-
18 posed undue burdens on legal gun owners and resi-
19 dents wishing to be legal gun owners, prior re-
20 straints on purchasing and concealed carrying fire-
21 arms, and feature-based restrictions that unduly
22 burden lawful acquisition, possession, and carrying
23 of firearms by responsible residents and visitors.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) DISTRICT.—The term “District” means the
2 District of Columbia.

3 (2) FIREARM.—The term “firearm” has the
4 meaning given that term in section 921(a)(3) of title
5 18, United States Code.

6 (3) LICENSEE.—The term “licensee” means a
7 person licensed under section 923 of title 18, United
8 States Code (a Federal firearms licensee).

9 (4) PROHIBITED PERSON.—The term “prohib-
10 ited person” means any person prohibited from re-
11 ceiving or possessing firearms under Federal law, in-
12 cluding section 922(g) of title 18, United States
13 Code.

14 **TITLE I—END PRIOR APPROVAL**
15 **AND REGISTRATION SYSTEM**

16 **SEC. 101. PROHIBITION ON PRIOR RESTRAINTS FOR ACQUI-**
17 **SITION OR POSSESSION.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—No law, regulation, rule, or policy
19 of the District may require any person to obtain, before
20 acquiring, receiving, possessing, or bringing into the Dis-
21 trict a firearm otherwise lawful under Federal law, any
22 license, certificate, registration, approval, permit, or other
23 authorization as a condition precedent to such acquisition,
24 receipt, possession, or importation.

1 (b) NO CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR MERE LACK OF
 2 PRIOR APPROVAL.—No person may be arrested, pros-
 3 ecuted, or subjected to criminal penalties under District
 4 law solely because the person acquired, received, pos-
 5 sessed, or brought into the District a firearm without first
 6 obtaining District authorization described in subsection
 7 (a), if the person is not a prohibited person under Federal
 8 law.

9 **SEC. 102. REPEAL OF DISTRICT FIREARM REGISTRATION**
 10 **SYSTEM; CONFORMING PROVISIONS.**

11 (a) REPEAL OF REGISTRATION SYSTEM.—The Dis-
 12 trict may not require the registration of any privately
 13 owned firearm. Any provision of District law, regulation,
 14 rule, or policy requiring registration of a firearm, condi-
 15 tioning lawful possession on registration, or imposing any
 16 penalty for failure to register a firearm is hereby repealed
 17 and shall have no force or effect.

18 (b) CONFORMING REPEAL AND PREMPTION.—Any
 19 District provision that—

20 (1) establishes or authorizes a registry of fire-
 21 arms;

22 (2) requires a registration certificate, registra-
 23 tion card, or proof of registration;

1 (3) makes lawful possession, transport, storage,
2 use, purchase, sale, transfer, carrying, or receipt of
3 a firearm contingent upon registration; or

4 (4) authorizes seizure, forfeiture, or arrest sole-
5 ly for a registration-related violation, is preempted
6 and may not be enforced.

7 (c) PROHIBITION ON ALTERNATIVE REGISTRATION
8 SCHEMES.—The District may not establish or maintain
9 any system that, in purpose or effect, functions as a fire-
10 arm registration requirement, including any requirement
11 to report or record firearm identifying information as a
12 precondition to lawful possession, purchase, transfer,
13 transport, or carrying, except to the extent such informa-
14 tion is collected by a Federal firearms licensee as required
15 under Federal law.

16 (d) RECORDS AND DATA.—

17 (1) CESSATION OF COLLECTION.—Beginning on
18 the effective date of this Act, the District may not
19 accept, process, or require any registration applica-
20 tion, registration renewal, or registration amend-
21 ment for any firearm.

22 (2) DISPOSITION OF EXISTING RECORDS.—Not
23 later than 180 days after the effective date of this
24 Act, the District shall destroy each firearm registra-
25 tion record in the possession of the District, includ-

ing database entries, paper records, and electronic files, except records that are evidence in a pending criminal prosecution or are required to be retained by Federal law.

(3) NO USE FOR ENFORCEMENT.—No firearm registration record possessed by the District on or after the effective date of this Act may be used as a basis for probable cause, reasonable suspicion, or any adverse action against any person.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter Federal background check requirements under section 922(t) of title 18, United States Code, or Federal prohibitions on possession by prohibited persons under section 922(g) of title 18, United States Code.

TITLE II—COMMON FIREARMS PROTECTION; BAN FEATURE-BASED PROHIBITIONS; REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION FEEDING DEVICE

SEC. 201. PREEMPTION OF FEATURE-BASED AND ASSAULT WEAPON BANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of District of Columbia law, no law, regulation, rule,

1 or policy of the District may prohibit the possession, ac-
2 quisition, sale, transfer, transport, or use of any firearm
3 on the basis of—

4 (1) the firearm being semiautomatic;

5 (2) the capacity to accept a detachable maga-
6 zine; or

7 (3) any feature, characteristic, component, or
8 configuration that is based on appearance,
9 ergonomics, or other nonfunctional or commonly
10 possessed attributes, including a pistol grip, adjust-
11 able stock, barrel shroud or handguard, muzzle de-
12 vice, threaded barrel, forward grip, or accessory rail.

13 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
14 tion shall be construed to permit possession of firearms
15 prohibited under Federal law, including items regulated
16 under the National Firearms Act (26 U.S.C. 5801 et
17 seq.), except to the extent Federal law otherwise permits
18 such possession.

19 (c) CONFORMING PREEMPTION.—Any District of Co-
20 lumbia provision defining or prohibiting assault weapons
21 (or substantially similar term) in a manner inconsistent
22 with this section is hereby preempted and shall have no
23 force or effect.

1 **SEC. 202. REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON LARGE CAPACITY**
2 **AMMUNITION FEEDING DEVICE.**

3 Sections 601(b) and 601(c) of the Firearms Control
4 Regulations Act of 1975 are hereby repealed.

5 **TITLE III—CONCEALED**
6 **CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY**

7 **SEC. 301. CONCEALED CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any person 21 years of age or
9 older who is not a prohibited person and can otherwise
10 legally own a firearm under Federal law may carry a con-
11 cealed handgun in the District without any District-issued
12 license or permit.

13 (b) NO PRIOR RESTRAINT.—The District may not re-
14 quire any license, permit, training, fingerprinting, good
15 cause, suitability determination, or other discretionary or
16 nondiscretionary prerequisite as a condition to carrying a
17 firearm concealed.

18 (c) SENSITIVE PLACES.—The District may prohibit
19 concealed carry only in locations where prohibitions are
20 consistent with the Constitution and Federal law, includ-
21 ing—

- 22 (1) secure areas of law enforcement facilities;
23 (2) courthouses and courtrooms;
24 (3) detention facilities;
25 (4) polling places on election day (as narrowly
26 tailored);

1 (5) a school zone, consistent with the terms of
2 18 U.S.C. 921(a) and 922(q); and

3 (6) any place where possession is prohibited by
4 Federal statute.

5 (d) PRIVATE PROPERTY.—Nothing in this Act shall
6 be construed to limit the right of a private property owner
7 to restrict or prohibit firearms on the owner’s property,
8 provided that such owner shall give notice of any such pro-
9 hibition or restriction by posting a sign at any publicly
10 accessible entrance to the property or by express notice
11 to individuals entering the property.

12 (e) OPTIONAL LICENSING.—Nothing in this Act shall
13 be construed to prohibit the District from issuing a carry
14 credential on an optional basis for residents seeking reci-
15 procity in other jurisdictions, provided that such a creden-
16 tial is not required for any person to carry concealed with-
17 in the District under this Act.

18 (f) OPEN CARRY.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-
19 strued to require the District to permit open carry. The
20 District’s laws restricting or prohibiting the open carrying
21 of firearms, to the extent otherwise consistent with the
22 Constitution, shall not be preempted by this Act.

1 **TITLE IV—MODERNIZE COM-**
2 **MERCE: DISTRICT RESIDENTS**
3 **AS “IN-STATE” BUYERS FOR**
4 **VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND**
5 **FEDERAL FIREARM LICENSE**
6 **PURCHASES**

7 **SEC. 401. AUTHORITY FOR LICENSEES IN VIRGINIA AND**
8 **MARYLAND TO TRANSFER FIREARMS TO DIS-**
9 **TRICT RESIDENTS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 922(b)(3) of title 18,
11 United States code is amended by striking the semicolon
12 at the end and inserting “, and (c) shall not apply to the
13 sale or delivery of a firearm by a licensee whose licensed
14 premises are located in the Commonwealth of Virginia or
15 the State of Maryland to a resident of the District of Co-
16 lumbia if (I) the transferee appears in person at the licens-
17 ee’s premises; (II) the transfer is completed in compliance
18 with section 922(t) (including a NICS background check
19 or a lawful alternative under Federal law); (III) the trans-
20 feree is not a prohibited person; and (IV) the sale, delivery,
21 and receipt would be lawful if the transferee were a resi-
22 dent of the State in which the licensee’s premises are lo-
23 cated, except that the District of Columbia shall not be
24 treated as a ‘State’ for purposes of imposing any addi-
25 tional restriction;”.

1 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion shall be construed to—

3 (1) alter Federal prohibitions on possession or
4 receipt of firearms by prohibited persons; or

5 (2) alter Federal requirements applicable to li-
6 censees, including recordkeeping.

7 (c) CONFORMING GUIDANCE.—The Attorney General
8 shall, not later than 60 days after enactment, update any
9 implementing guidance necessary to ensure NICS and li-
10 censee compliance for transfers authorized by this section.

11 **TITLE V—PREEMPTION, EN-**
12 **FORCEMENT, AND EFFECTIVE**
13 **DATE**

14 **SEC. 501. PREEMPTION OF INCONSISTENT DISTRICT LAWS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—This Act supersedes and preempts
16 any law, regulation, rule, or policy of the District that is
17 inconsistent with this Act, and such inconsistent provi-
18 sions shall have no force or effect.

19 (b) ANTI-CIRCUMVENTION.—The District may not
20 enforce any portion of a preempted provision by reissuing
21 it under a different name, authority, or rulemaking vehi-
22 cle.

1 **SEC. 502. ENFORCEMENT; CAUSE OF ACTION; ATTORNEYS'**
2 **FEES.**

3 (a) CAUSE OF ACTION.—Any person adversely af-
4 fected by a violation of this Act, or by the enforcement
5 or threatened enforcement of a District law preempted by
6 this Act, may bring a civil action in the United States
7 District Court for the District of Columbia for declaratory
8 and injunctive relief.

9 (b) REMEDIES.—In an action under subsection (a),
10 the court may award appropriate relief, including—

11 (1) declaratory relief;

12 (2) temporary, preliminary, and permanent in-
13 junctive relief;

14 (3) compensatory damages (where otherwise
15 available); and

16 (4) reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to a
17 prevailing plaintiff.

18 **SEC. 503. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

19 This Act, and the amendments made by this Act,
20 shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act.

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