

1 AN ACT relating to firearms and making an appropriation therefor.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 527.010 is amended to read as follows:

4 The following definitions apply in this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

5 (1) **(a) "Assault weapon" means:**

6 **1. A semiautomatic rifle that has the capacity to accept a detachable**
7 **magazine and has at least one (1) of the following characteristics:**

8 **a. A folding or telescoping stock;**

9 **b. A pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of**
10 **the weapon;**

11 **c. A second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the**
12 **nontrigger hand;**

13 **d. A thumbhole stock;**

14 **e. A suppressor, flash suppressor, muzzle break, muzzle**
15 **compensator, or threaded barrel designed to accommodate a**
16 **flash suppressor, muzzle break, or muzzle compensator; or**

17 **f. A grenade launcher;**

18 **2. A semiautomatic shotgun that has at least one (1) of the following**
19 **characteristics:**

20 **a. A folding or telescoping stock;**

21 **b. A second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the**
22 **nontrigger hand;**

23 **c. A fixed magazine capacity in excess of ten (10) rounds; or**

24 **d. An ability to accept a detachable magazine;**

25 **3. A semiautomatic pistol that has the capacity to accept a detachable**
26 **magazine and has at least one (1) of the following characteristics:**

27 **a. A folding or telescoping stock;**

- 1 **b. A second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the**
 2 **nontrigger hand;**
 3 **c. The capacity to accept a detachable magazine at any location**
 4 **outside of the pistol grip;**
 5 **d. A threaded barrel capable of accepting a barrel extender, flash**
 6 **suppressor, forward handgrip, or suppressor;**
 7 **e. A shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles,**
 8 **the barrel and that permits the shooter to hold the firearm with**
 9 **the nontrigger hand without being burned; or**
 10 **f. A manufactured weight of fifty (50) ounces or more when the**
 11 **pistol is unloaded;**

12 **4. A semiautomatic version of an automatic rifle, shotgun, or firearm;**

13 **5. A revolving cylinder shotgun; or**

14 **6. Conversion kit, part, or combination of parts, from which an assault**
 15 **weapon can be assembled if those parts are in the possession or under**
 16 **the control of the same person.**

17 **(b) "Assault weapon" does not include:**

18 **1. Any rifle, shotgun, or pistol that is manually operated by bolt, pump,**
 19 **lever, or slide action, which has been rendered permanently**
 20 **inoperable, or which is an antique firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. sec.**
 21 **921(a)(16);**

22 **2. A semiautomatic rifle that cannot accept a detachable magazine that**
 23 **holds more than five (5) rounds of ammunition; or**

24 **3. A semiautomatic shotgun that cannot hold more than five (5) rounds**
 25 **of ammunition in a fixed or detachable magazine;**

26 **(2)** "Booby trap device" shall have the same meaning as set forth in KRS 237.030.

27 **(3)**~~(2)~~ "Deface" means to remove, deface, cover, alter, or destroy the manufacturer's

1 serial number or any other distinguishing number or identification mark.

2 ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ "Destructive device" shall have the same meaning as set forth in KRS
3 237.030.

4 ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ "Firearm" means any weapon which will expel a projectile by the action of an
5 explosive.

6 ~~(6)~~~~(5)~~ "Handgun" means any pistol or revolver originally designed to be fired by the
7 use of a single hand, or any other firearm originally designed to be fired by the use
8 of a single hand; and

9 (7) "Large-capacity ammunition-feeding device" means a magazine, belt, drum, feed
10 strip, or similar device that has a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or
11 converted to accept, more than ten (10) rounds of ammunition, but does not
12 include an attached tubular device designed to accept, and capable of operating
13 only with, .22 caliber rimfire ammunition or a feeding device that is a curio or
14 relic. To qualify as a curio or relic feeding device under this subsection, it must
15 be a feeding device that:

16 (a) Was manufactured at least fifty (50) years prior to the current date, not
17 including replicas thereof;

18 (b) Is only capable of being used exclusively in a firearm, rifle, or shotgun that
19 was manufactured at least fifty (50) years prior to the current date, not
20 including replicas thereof; and

21 (c) Is possessed by an individual who is not prohibited by state or federal law
22 from possessing a firearm.

23 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 527 IS CREATED TO
24 READ AS FOLLOWS:

25 (1) On or after the effective date of this section, a person is guilty of possession or
26 transfer of a large-capacity ammunition-feeding device when he or she
27 knowingly either:

- 1 (a) Possesses a large-capacity ammunition-feeding device;
- 2 (b) Transfers a large-capacity ammunition-feeding device to another person,
- 3 except as provided in subsections (4)(c) and (d) of this section.
- 4 (2) Possession or transfer of a large-capacity ammunition-feeding device is a Class A
- 5 misdemeanor.
- 6 (3) This section shall not apply to a person who is:
- 7 (a) A member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a reserve component
- 8 thereof, or the National Guard; or
- 9 (b) A law enforcement officer as defined in KRS 15.310.
- 10 (4) Any person who may not lawfully possess a large-capacity ammunition-feeding
- 11 device on or after the effective date of this Act shall, prior to the effective date of
- 12 this Act:
- 13 (a) Remove the large-capacity ammunition-feeding device from the state;
- 14 (b) Render the large-capacity ammunition-feeding device permanently
- 15 inoperable;
- 16 (c) Sell the large-capacity ammunition-feeding device to a federally licensed
- 17 firearms dealer; or
- 18 (d) Transfer the large-capacity ammunition-feeding device to law enforcement.

19 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 527 IS CREATED TO

20 READ AS FOLLOWS:

- 21 (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a person is guilty of
- 22 possession or transfer of an assault weapon when he or she knowingly either:
- 23 (a) Possesses an assault weapon; or
- 24 (b) Transfers an assault weapon to another person through any means.
- 25 (2) Possession or transfer of an assault weapon is a Class A misdemeanor.
- 26 (3) This section shall not apply to a person who:
- 27 (a) Is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a reserve component

1 thereof, or the National Guard;

2 (b) Is a law enforcement officer as defined in KRS 15.310; or

3 (c) Has complied with Section 4 of this Act.

4 ➔SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 237 IS CREATED TO
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 (1) (a) 1. As used in this section, "permanently inoperable" means that the
7 assault weapon is altered in such a manner that it cannot be fired and
8 that the owner or possessor of the firearm does not possess or have
9 control over the parts necessary to make the firearm operable; and

10 2. As used in this section, "temporarily inoperable" means that when the
11 assault weapon is not in the direct control of the registered owner, it is
12 stored using an integrated design feature or attachable accessory that
13 will prevent the use of the weapon by an unauthorized user.

14 (b) Within one (1) year after the effective date of this Act, a person who
15 lawfully owns any assault weapon as defined in Section 1 of this Act on the
16 effective date of this Act shall:

17 1. a. Register with the Department of Kentucky State Police as the
18 certified owner of each assault weapon that the person elects to
19 continue to possess; and

20 b. Store the weapon with devices which render the weapon
21 temporarily inoperable, in accordance with subsection (2) of this
22 section;

23 2. Transfer the assault weapon to any person lawfully entitled to own or
24 possess the firearm;

25 3. Transfer the assault weapon to the Department of Kentucky State
26 Police buyback program in accordance with subsection (3) of this
27 section; or

- 1 4. Render the assault weapon permanently inoperable.
- 2 (2) (a) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall administer a program
3 through which the owners of assault weapons who elect to continue to
4 possess assault weapons more than one (1) year after the effective date of
5 this Act shall:
- 6 1. Register as the owners of individual assault weapons; and
7 2. Receive devices approved by the department and designed to render
8 the weapon temporarily inoperable when it is not under the direct
9 control of the registered owner.
- 10 (b) The department shall promulgate administrative regulations to administer
11 this program, and may establish a fee sufficient to cover the costs of
12 administering this program.
- 13 (3) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall administer a buyback program
14 through which an assault weapon is voluntarily transferred to the Department of
15 Kentucky State Police by the owner of the weapon in exchange for the estimated
16 cash value of the weapon. The buyback program shall be funded by the fees
17 collected from the registration of assault weapons under this section.
- 18 (4) (a) A trust and agency account to be known as the Assault Weapon
19 Registration fund is hereby established in the State Treasury. The fund
20 shall consist of the moneys received from the fees imposed in subsection (2)
21 of this section, state appropriations, gifts, grants, and federal funds.
- 22 (b) The fund shall be administered by the Department of Kentucky State Police.
- 23 (c) Amounts deposited in the fund shall be used for the operation of the
24 buyback program established under subsection (3) of this section, and for
25 no other purpose.
- 26 (d) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, fund amounts not expended at the close of a
27 fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward into the next fiscal

1 year.

2 (e) Any interest earnings of the fund shall become a part of the fund and shall
3 not lapse.

4 (f) Moneys deposited in the fund are hereby appropriated for the purposes set
5 forth in this subsection and shall not be appropriated or transferred by the
6 General Assembly for any other purposes.

7 (5) If the owner of an assault weapon elects to render the firearm permanently
8 inoperable, the owner shall file a certification on a form prescribed by the
9 Department of Kentucky State Police indicating the date on which the firearm
10 was rendered inoperable. This certification shall be filed with the Department of
11 Kentucky State Police.

12 (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow a certified owner of an assault
13 weapon to transfer an assault weapon to another person after the one (1) year
14 period following the effective date of this Act has ended.

15 ➔Section 5. KRS 16.220 is amended to read as follows:

16 (1) Subject to the duty to return confiscated firearms to innocent owners pursuant to
17 KRS 500.090, all firearms confiscated by the Department of Kentucky State Police
18 and not retained for official use pursuant to KRS 500.090 shall be sold at public
19 auction to federally licensed firearms dealers holding a license appropriate for the
20 type of firearm sold. Any provision of KRS Chapter 45 or 45A relating to
21 disposition of property to the contrary notwithstanding, the Department of Kentucky
22 State Police shall:

23 (a) Conduct any auction specified by this section;

24 (b) Retain for departmental use twenty percent (20%) of the gross proceeds from
25 any auction specified by this section; and

26 (c) Transfer remaining proceeds of the sale to the account of the Kentucky Office
27 of Homeland Security for use as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

- 1 (2) Prior to the sale of any firearm, the Department of Kentucky State Police shall make
2 an attempt to determine if the firearm to be sold has been stolen or otherwise
3 unlawfully obtained from an innocent owner and return the firearm to its lawful
4 innocent owner, unless that person is ineligible to purchase a firearm under federal
5 law.
- 6 (3) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall receive firearms and ammunition
7 confiscated by or abandoned to every law enforcement agency in Kentucky. The
8 department shall dispose of the firearms received in the manner specified in
9 subsection (1) of this section. However, firearms which are not retained for official
10 use, returned to an innocent lawful owner, or transferred to another government
11 agency or public museum shall be sold as provided in subsections (1) and (3) of this
12 section.
- 13 (4) The proceeds of firearms sales shall be utilized by the Kentucky Office of
14 Homeland Security to provide grants to city, county, charter county, unified local
15 government, urban-county government, and consolidated local government police
16 departments; university safety and security departments organized pursuant to KRS
17 164.950; school districts that employ special law enforcement officers as defined in
18 KRS 61.900; and sheriff's departments for the purchase of:
- 19 (a) Body armor for sworn peace officers of those departments and service
20 animals, as defined in KRS 525.010, of those departments;
- 21 (b) Firearms or ammunition;
- 22 (c) Electronic control devices, electronic control weapons, or electro-muscular
23 disruption technology; and
- 24 (d) Body-worn cameras.
- 25 In awarding grants under this section, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security
26 shall give first priority to providing and replacing body armor and second priority to
27 providing firearms and ammunition, with residual funds available for the purchase

1 of body-worn cameras, electronic control devices, electronic control weapons, or
2 electro-muscular disruption technology. Body armor purchased by the department
3 receiving grant funds shall meet or exceed the standards issued by the National
4 Institute of Justice for body armor. No police or sheriff's department shall apply for
5 a grant to replace existing body armor unless that body armor has been in actual use
6 for a period of five (5) years or longer. Any department applying for grant funds for
7 body-worn cameras shall develop a policy for their use and shall submit that policy
8 with its application for the grant funds to the Office of Homeland Security as part of
9 the application process.

10 (5) The Department of Kentucky State Police may transfer a machine gun, short-
11 barreled shotgun, short-barreled rifle, silencer, pistol with a shoulder stock, any
12 other weapon, or destructive device as defined by the National Firearms Act which
13 is subject to registration under the National Firearms Act and is not properly
14 registered in the national firearms transfer records for those types of weapons, to the
15 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms of the United States Department of
16 Justice, after a reasonable attempt has been made to transfer the firearm to an
17 eligible state or local law enforcement agency or to an eligible museum and no
18 eligible recipient will take the firearm or weapon. National Firearms Act firearms
19 and weapons which are properly registered and not returned to an innocent lawful
20 owner or retained for official use as provided in this section shall be sold to properly
21 licensed dealers under subsection (3) of this section.

22 **(6) This section shall not apply to assault weapons acquired through the buyback**
23 **program authorized under Section 4 of this Act.**

24 ➔Section 6. KRS 237.104 is amended to read as follows:

25 (1) No person, unit of government, or governmental organization shall, during a period
26 of disaster or emergency as specified in KRS Chapter 39A or at any other time,
27 have the right to revoke, suspend, limit the use of, or otherwise impair the validity

1 of the right of any person to purchase, transfer, loan, own, possess, carry, or use a
2 firearm, firearm part, ammunition, ammunition component, or any deadly weapon
3 or dangerous instrument.

4 (2) No person, unit of government, or governmental organization shall, during a period
5 of disaster or emergency as specified in KRS Chapter 39A or at any other time,
6 take, seize, confiscate, or impound a firearm, firearm part, ammunition, ammunition
7 component, or any deadly weapon or dangerous instrument from any person.

8 (3) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the taking of an item specified in
9 subsection (1) or (2) of this section from a person who is:

10 (a) Forbidden to possess a firearm pursuant to KRS 527.040;

11 (b) Forbidden to possess a firearm pursuant to federal law;

12 (c) Violating KRS 527.020;

13 (d) In possession of a stolen firearm;

14 (e) Using a firearm in the commission of a separate criminal offense;

15 (f) Participating in the assault weapons buyback program authorized under
16 Section 4 of this Act; or

17 ~~(g)~~ Using a firearm or other weapon in the commission of an offense under
18 KRS Chapter 150.