

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8388

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2024

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. NORTON) 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”.

6 **SEC. 2. BAN ON PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP, OR POSSESSION**
7 **OF ENHANCED BODY ARMOR BY CIVILIANS;**
8 **EXCEPTIONS.**

9 (a) BAN.—

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

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

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

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

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

12 “(A) the United States or any department
13 or agency of the United States; or

14 “(B) a State, or a department, agency, or
15 political subdivision of a State;

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

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

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

22 “(1) has the meaning given the term ‘qualified
23 law enforcement officer’ in section 926B and the
24 term ‘qualified retired law enforcement officer’ in
25 section 926C; and

1 “(2) includes corrections officers.”.

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

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

5 (b) ENHANCED BODY ARMOR DEFINED.—Section
6 921(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following:

8 “(38) The term ‘enhanced body armor’ means
9 body armor, including a helmet or shield, the bal-
10 listic resistance of which meets or exceeds the bal-
11 listic performance of Type III armor, determined
12 using such standard as the National Institute of
13 Justice has in effect at the time at which a person
14 purchases, owns, or possesses such armor.”.

15 (c) PENALTIES.—Section 924(a) of title 18, United
16 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(9) Whoever knowingly violates section 935
19 shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more
20 than 10 years, or both.”.

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