

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1280

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblymen Houghtaling, Johnson, Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywomen Swain, Carter and Vainieri Huttle**

**SYNOPSIS**

Revises definition of destructive device to include certain weapons of 50 caliber or greater.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/13/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning destructive devices, amending N.J.S.2C:39-1  
2 and supplementing chapter 39 of Title 2C of the New Jersey  
3 Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. N.J.S.2C:39-1 is amended to read as follows:

9 2C:39-1. Definitions. The following definitions apply to this  
10 chapter and to chapter 58:

11 a. "Antique firearm" means any rifle or shotgun and "antique  
12 cannon" means a destructive device defined in paragraph (3) of  
13 subsection c. of this section, if the rifle, shotgun or destructive  
14 device, or replica thereof, as the case may be, is incapable of being  
15 fired or discharged, or which does not fire fixed ammunition,  
16 regardless of date of manufacture, or was manufactured before 1898  
17 for which cartridge ammunition is not commercially available, and  
18 is possessed as a curiosity or ornament or for its historical  
19 significance or value.

20 b. "Deface" means to remove, deface, cover, alter or destroy  
21 the name of the maker, model designation, manufacturer's serial  
22 number or any other distinguishing identification mark or number  
23 on any firearm.

24 c. "Destructive device" means any device, instrument or object  
25 designed to explode or produce uncontrolled combustion, including  
26 (1) any explosive or incendiary bomb, mine or grenade; (2) any  
27 rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces or any  
28 missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-  
29 quarter of an ounce; (3) any weapon capable of firing a **[projectile]**  
30 center-fire cartridge of a caliber of 50 or greater [than 60 caliber,  
31 except a shotgun or shotgun ammunition generally recognized as  
32 suitable for sporting purposes] , which shall include any metric  
33 equivalent of 50 caliber or greater, that is capable of firing a  
34 projectile that attains a muzzle energy of 12,000 foot-pounds or  
35 greater in any combination of bullet, propellant, case, or primer. It  
36 also shall include any copy or duplicate of any weapon that is  
37 capable of firing a projectile that attains a muzzle energy of 12,000  
38 foot-pounds or greater regardless of caliber. The provisions of this  
39 paragraph shall not apply to a smooth bore shotgun or rifle barrel  
40 shotgun or any shotgun ammunition generally recognized as  
41 suitable for sporting purposes in this State; (4) any Molotov cocktail  
42 or other device consisting of a breakable container containing  
43 flammable liquid and having a wick or similar device capable of  
44 being ignited. The term **[does]** shall not include any device  
45 manufactured for the purpose of illumination, distress signaling,

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

- 1 line-throwing, safety, or similar purposes.
- 2 d. "Dispose of" means to give, give away, lease, loan, keep for  
3 sale, offer, offer for sale, sell, transfer, or otherwise transfer  
4 possession.
- 5 e. "Explosive" means any chemical compound or mixture that  
6 is commonly used or is possessed for the purpose of producing an  
7 explosion and which contains any oxidizing and combustible  
8 materials or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities or  
9 packing that an ignition by fire, by friction, by concussion or by  
10 detonation of any part of the compound or mixture may cause such  
11 a sudden generation of highly heated gases that the resultant  
12 gaseous pressures are capable of producing destructive effects on  
13 contiguous objects. The term shall not include small arms  
14 ammunition, or explosives in the form prescribed by the official  
15 United States Pharmacopoeia.
- 16 f. "Firearm" means any handgun, rifle, shotgun, machine gun,  
17 automatic or semi-automatic rifle, or any gun, device or instrument  
18 in the nature of a weapon from which may be fired or ejected any  
19 solid projectable ball, slug, pellet, missile or bullet, or any gas,  
20 vapor or other noxious thing, by means of a cartridge or shell or by  
21 the action of an explosive or the igniting of flammable or explosive  
22 substances. It shall also include, without limitation, any firearm  
23 which is in the nature of an air gun, spring gun or pistol or other  
24 weapon of a similar nature in which the propelling force is a spring,  
25 elastic band, carbon dioxide, compressed or other gas or vapor, air  
26 or compressed air, or is ignited by compressed air, and ejecting a  
27 bullet or missile smaller than three-eighths of an inch in diameter,  
28 with sufficient force to injure a person.
- 29 g. "Firearm silencer" means any instrument, attachment,  
30 weapon or appliance for causing the firing of any gun, revolver,  
31 pistol or other firearm to be silent, or intended to lessen or muffle  
32 the noise of the firing of any gun, revolver, pistol or other firearm.
- 33 h. "Gravity knife" means any knife which has a blade which is  
34 released from the handle or sheath thereof by the force of gravity or  
35 the application of centrifugal force.
- 36 i. "Machine gun" means any firearm, mechanism or instrument  
37 not requiring that the trigger be pressed for each shot and having a  
38 reservoir, belt or other means of storing and carrying ammunition  
39 which can be loaded into the firearm, mechanism or instrument and  
40 fired therefrom.
- 41 j. "Manufacturer" means any person who receives or obtains  
42 raw materials or parts and processes them into firearms or finished  
43 parts of firearms, except a person who exclusively processes grips,  
44 stocks and other nonmetal parts of firearms. The term does not  
45 include a person who repairs existing firearms or receives new and  
46 used raw materials or parts solely for the repair of existing firearms.

- 1 k. "Handgun" means any pistol, revolver or other firearm  
2 originally designed or manufactured to be fired by the use of a  
3 single hand.
- 4 l. "Retail dealer" means any person including a gunsmith,  
5 except a manufacturer or a wholesale dealer, who sells, transfers or  
6 assigns for a fee or profit any firearm or parts of firearms or  
7 ammunition which he has purchased or obtained with the intention,  
8 or for the purpose, of reselling or reassigning to persons who are  
9 reasonably understood to be the ultimate consumers, and includes  
10 any person who is engaged in the business of repairing firearms or  
11 who sells any firearm to satisfy a debt secured by the pledge of a  
12 firearm.
- 13 m. "Rifle" means any firearm designed to be fired from the  
14 shoulder and using the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic  
15 cartridge to fire a single projectile through a rifled bore for each  
16 single pull of the trigger.
- 17 n. "Shotgun" means any firearm designed to be fired from the  
18 shoulder and using the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun  
19 shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shots or a  
20 single projectile for each pull of the trigger, or any firearm designed  
21 to be fired from the shoulder which does not fire fixed ammunition.
- 22 o. "Sawed-off shotgun" means any shotgun having a barrel or  
23 barrels of less than 18 inches in length measured from the breech to  
24 the muzzle, or a rifle having a barrel or barrels of less than 16  
25 inches in length measured from the breech to the muzzle, or any  
26 firearm made from a rifle or a shotgun, whether by alteration, or  
27 otherwise, if such firearm as modified has an overall length of less  
28 than 26 inches.
- 29 p. "Switchblade knife" means any knife or similar device  
30 which has a blade which opens automatically by hand pressure  
31 applied to a button, spring or other device in the handle of the knife.
- 32 q. "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of the State  
33 Police.
- 34 r. "Weapon" means anything readily capable of lethal use or of  
35 inflicting serious bodily injury. The term includes, but is not  
36 limited to, all (1) firearms, even though not loaded or lacking a clip  
37 or other component to render them immediately operable; (2)  
38 components which can be readily assembled into a weapon; (3)  
39 gravity knives, switchblade knives, daggers, dirks, stilettos, or other  
40 dangerous knives, billies, blackjacks, bludgeons, metal knuckles,  
41 sandclubs, slingshots, cesti or similar leather bands studded with  
42 metal filings or razor blades imbedded in wood; and (4) stun guns;  
43 and any weapon or other device which projects, releases, or emits  
44 tear gas or any other substance intended to produce temporary  
45 physical discomfort or permanent injury through being vaporized or  
46 otherwise dispensed in the air.
- 47 s. "Wholesale dealer" means any person, except a  
48 manufacturer, who sells, transfers, or assigns firearms, or parts of

1 firearms, to persons who are reasonably understood not to be the  
2 ultimate consumers, and includes persons who receive finished  
3 parts of firearms and assemble them into completed or partially  
4 completed firearms, in furtherance of such purpose, except that it  
5 shall not include those persons dealing exclusively in grips, stocks  
6 and other nonmetal parts of firearms.

7 t. "Stun gun" means any weapon or other device which emits  
8 an electrical charge or current intended to temporarily or  
9 permanently disable a person.

10 u. "Ballistic knife" means any weapon or other device capable  
11 of lethal use and which can propel a knife blade.

12 v. "Imitation firearm" means an object or device reasonably  
13 capable of being mistaken for a firearm.

14 w. "Assault firearm" means:

15 (1) The following firearms:

16 Algimec AGM1 type

17 Any shotgun with a revolving cylinder such as the "Street  
18 Sweeper" or "Striker 12"

19 Armalite AR-180 type

20 Australian Automatic Arms SAR

21 Avtomat Kalashnikov type semi-automatic firearms

22 Beretta AR-70 and BM59 semi-automatic firearms

23 Bushmaster Assault Rifle

24 Calico M-900 Assault carbine and M-900

25 CETME G3

26 Chartered Industries of Singapore SR-88 type

27 Colt AR-15 and CAR-15 series

28 Daewoo K-1, K-2, Max 1 and Max 2, AR 100 types

29 Demro TAC-1 carbine type

30 Encom MP-9 and MP-45 carbine types

31 FAMAS MAS223 types

32 FN-FAL, FN-LAR, or FN-FNC type semi-automatic firearms

33 Franchi SPAS 12 and LAW 12 shotguns

34 G3SA type

35 Galil type Heckler and Koch HK91, HK93, HK94, MP5, PSG-1

36 Intratec TEC 9 and 22 semi-automatic firearms

37 M1 carbine type

38 M14S type

39 MAC 10, MAC 11, MAC 11-9mm carbine type firearms

40 PJK M-68 carbine type

41 Plainfield Machine Company Carbine

42 Ruger K-Mini-14/5F and Mini-14/5RF

43 SIG AMT, SIG 550SP, SIG 551SP, SIG PE-57 types

44 SKS with detachable magazine type

45 Spectre Auto carbine type

46 Springfield Armory BM59 and SAR-48 type

47 Sterling MK-6, MK-7 and SAR types

48 Steyr A.U.G. semi-automatic firearms

- 1 USAS 12 semi-automatic type shotgun  
2 Uzi type semi-automatic firearms  
3 Valmet M62, M71S, M76, or M78 type semi-automatic firearms  
4 Weaver Arm Nighthawk.
- 5 (2) Any firearm manufactured under any designation which is  
6 substantially identical to any of the firearms listed above.
- 7 (3) A semi-automatic shotgun with either a magazine capacity  
8 exceeding six rounds, a pistol grip, or a folding stock.
- 9 (4) A semi-automatic rifle with a fixed magazine capacity  
10 exceeding 15 rounds.
- 11 (5) A part or combination of parts designed or intended to  
12 convert a firearm into an assault firearm, or any combination of  
13 parts from which an assault firearm may be readily assembled if  
14 those parts are in the possession or under the control of the same  
15 person.
- 16 x. "Semi-automatic" means a firearm which fires a single  
17 projectile for each single pull of the trigger and is self-reloading or  
18 automatically chambers a round, cartridge, or bullet.
- 19 y. "Large capacity ammunition magazine" means a box, drum,  
20 tube or other container which is capable of holding more than 15  
21 rounds of ammunition to be fed continuously and directly therefrom  
22 into a semi-automatic firearm.
- 23 z. "Pistol grip" means a well-defined handle, similar to that  
24 found on a handgun, that protrudes conspicuously beneath the  
25 action of the weapon, and which permits the shotgun to be held and  
26 fired with one hand.
- 27 aa. "Antique handgun" means a handgun manufactured before  
28 1898, or a replica thereof, which is recognized as being historical in  
29 nature or of historical significance and either (1) utilizes a match,  
30 friction, flint, or percussion ignition, or which utilizes a pin-fire  
31 cartridge in which the pin is part of the cartridge or (2) does not fire  
32 fixed ammunition or for which cartridge ammunition is not  
33 commercially available.
- 34 bb. "Trigger lock" means a commercially available device  
35 approved by the Superintendent of State Police which is operated  
36 with a key or combination lock that prevents a firearm from being  
37 discharged while the device is attached to the firearm. It may  
38 include, but need not be limited to, devices that obstruct the barrel  
39 or cylinder of the firearm, as well as devices that immobilize the  
40 trigger.
- 41 cc. "Trigger locking device" means a device that, if installed on  
42 a firearm and secured by means of a key or mechanically,  
43 electronically or electromechanically operated combination lock,  
44 prevents the firearm from being discharged without first  
45 deactivating or removing the device by means of a key or  
46 mechanically, electronically or electromechanically operated  
47 combination lock.

1 dd. "Personalized handgun" means a handgun which  
2 incorporates within its design, and as part of its original  
3 manufacture, technology which automatically limits its operational  
4 use and which cannot be readily deactivated, so that it may only be  
5 fired by an authorized or recognized user. The technology limiting  
6 the handgun's operational use may include, but not be limited to:  
7 radio frequency tagging, touch memory, remote control, fingerprint,  
8 magnetic encoding and other automatic user identification systems  
9 utilizing biometric, mechanical or electronic systems. No make or  
10 model of a handgun shall be deemed to be a "personalized handgun"  
11 unless the Attorney General has determined, through testing or  
12 other reasonable means, that the handgun meets any reliability  
13 standards that the manufacturer may require for its commercially  
14 available handguns that are not personalized or, if the manufacturer  
15 has no such reliability standards, the handgun meets the reliability  
16 standards generally used in the industry for commercially available  
17 handguns.  
18 (cf: P.L.2002, c.130, s.5)

19

20 2. (New section) a. The owner of a .50 caliber or greater  
21 weapon purchased or acquired before the weapon was prohibited  
22 under the provisions of paragraph (3) of subsection c. of  
23 N.J.S.2C:39-1 by the enactment of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
24 before the Legislature as this bill) shall have one year in which to  
25 register that weapon.

26 In order to register a prohibited weapon, the owner shall:

27 (1) Complete a registration statement, in the form to be  
28 prescribed by the Superintendent of the State Police; and

29 (2) Pay a registration fee of \$50 for each prohibited weapon.

30 b. For an applicant who resides in a municipality with an  
31 organized full-time police department, the registration shall take  
32 place at the main office of the police department. For all other  
33 applicants, the registration shall take place at any State Police  
34 station.

35 c. Within 60 days of the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. )  
36 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Superintendent  
37 shall prepare the form of registration statement required under  
38 subsection a. of this section and shall provide a suitable supply of  
39 statements to each organized full-time municipal police department  
40 and each State Police station.

41 d. One copy of the completed prohibited weapon registration  
42 statement shall be returned to the registrant, a second copy shall be  
43 sent to the Superintendent, and, if the registration takes place at a  
44 municipal police department, a third copy shall be retained by that  
45 municipal police department.

46 e. If the owner of a prohibited weapon that has been registered  
47 pursuant to this section dies, the owner's heirs or estate shall have  
48 90 days to dispose of that firearm in accordance with the provisions

1 of section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. )(pending before the Legislature  
2 as this bill).

3 f. If a prohibited weapon registered pursuant to this section is  
4 used in the commission of a crime, the registrant of that prohibited  
5 weapon shall be civilly liable for any damages resulting from that  
6 crime.

7 The liability imposed by this subsection shall not apply (1) if the  
8 weapon used in the commission of that crime was stolen and the  
9 registrant reported the theft of the weapon to law enforcement  
10 authorities within 36 hours of the registrant's knowledge of the theft  
11 or (2) prior to the commission of the crime, the registrant lawfully  
12 transferred the weapon to another person.

13

14 3. (New section) a. A person who lawfully possesses a .50  
15 caliber or greater weapon prohibited under the provisions of  
16 paragraph (3) of subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:39-1 on the effective date  
17 of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and does  
18 not register it pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. )(pending  
19 before the Legislature as this bill) may retain possession of that  
20 weapon for a period not to exceed one year from that effective date.  
21 During that time period, the owner of the prohibited weapon shall  
22 either:

23 (1) Transfer the prohibited weapon to a person or firm lawfully  
24 entitled to own or possess such weapon;

25 (2) Render the prohibited weapon inoperable; or

26 (3) Voluntarily surrender the prohibited weapon pursuant to  
27 N.J.S.2C:39-12.

28 b. If the owner of the prohibited weapon elects to render the  
29 weapon inoperable, the owner shall file a certification on a form  
30 prescribed by the Superintendent of State Police indicating the date  
31 on which the weapon was rendered inoperable. This certification  
32 shall be filed with either the chief law enforcement officer of the  
33 municipality in which the owner resides or, in the case of an owner  
34 who resides in a municipality which does not have a full-time police  
35 department, with the Superintendent of State Police.

36 c. As used in this section, "inoperable" means that the weapon  
37 is altered in such a manner that it cannot be immediately fired and  
38 that the owner or possessor of the weapon does not possess or have  
39 control over the parts necessary to make the weapon operable.

40

41 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

42

43

44

STATEMENT

45

46 This bill revises the definition of "destructive device" so that it  
47 includes weapons of 50 caliber or greater. Under the bill and



1 subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3, it would be unlawful to possess a  
2 firearm having a caliber of 50 or greater.

3 Under the revised definition, a 50 caliber or greater weapon  
4 includes any weapon capable of firing a center-fire cartridge of a  
5 caliber of 50 or greater, including any metric equivalent of 50  
6 caliber or greater, that is capable of firing a projectile that attains a  
7 muzzle energy of 12,000 foot-pounds or greater in any combination  
8 of bullet, propellant, case, or primer. The definition also includes  
9 any copy or duplicate of any such weapon, regardless of the caliber,  
10 which fires any projectile that attains a muzzle energy of 12,000  
11 foot-pounds or greater. The prohibition on 50 caliber or greater  
12 weapons will not apply to a smooth bore shotgun or rifle barrel  
13 shotgun or any shotgun ammunition generally recognized as  
14 suitable for sporting purposes in this State.

15 Under the provisions of the bill, a person who purchased or  
16 acquired a weapon that has been prohibited with the enactment of  
17 this bill may retain that weapon if he or she registers it with law  
18 enforcement. The registration fee is \$50. A person who chooses  
19 not to register his or her prohibited weapon has one year in which to  
20 lawfully sell the weapon, render it inoperable, or voluntarily  
21 surrender the weapon to law enforcement.

22 When a registrant dies, the heirs or estate are to dispose of the  
23 weapon by either selling it, rendering it inoperable, or voluntarily  
24 surrendering it.

25 The registrant of a prohibited weapon may be held civilly liable  
26 if it is used in the commission of a crime.

27 This liability does not apply: (1) if the weapon used in the crime  
28 was stolen and the registrant reported the theft to law enforcement  
29 within 36 hours of the registrant's knowledge of the theft or (2)  
30 prior to the commission of the crime, the registrant lawfully  
31 transferred the weapon to another person.