

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No.*

*Approved*

WHEREAS, A semi-automatic, or self-loading, firearm is a weapon that fires, extracts, ejects and reloads once for each pull and release of the trigger; and

WHEREAS, Semi-automatic weapons, whether pistol or rifle, were designed for use by the military on the battlefield; and

WHEREAS, Using a semi-automatic weapon, whether a pistol or rifle, allows the shooter to carry and fire more rounds more easily and in less time than is possible with a conventional single-action, single-shot firearm; and

WHEREAS, According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, "Police across America report that semi-automatic assault weapons [have] become the weapon of choice for drug traffickers, gangs and paramilitary extremist groups"; and

WHEREAS, Semi-automatic firearms, both pistol and rifle, have been used repeatedly in our nation's worst mass shootings, including the recent tragedies in Newtown, Connecticut, and Aurora, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Previous attempts to ban so-called "assault weapons", while positive, have been undermined by loopholes and efforts by weapons manufacturers to redesign certain weapons to evade the ban; and

WHEREAS, The federal ban on fully automatic firearms is not enough to protect innocents from mass shootings, as the difference in capacity and firing speed between automatic and semi-automatic weapons is often negligible; and

WHEREAS, Between 2006 and 2010, 561 children age 12 and under were killed by firearms, according to the FBI's most recent Uniform Crime Reports; and

WHEREAS, Since 1979, America has lost nearly three times as many children and teens to gunfire as the number of U.S. military deaths during the Vietnam War and over 23 times the number of U.S. military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, there were 17 homicides in the Providence, 14 involved a firearm; and

WHEREAS, A ban on semi-automatic weapons would not restrict the ownership or use of conventional single-action, single-shot firearms, which are considered by many to be the most effective firearms for hunting, personal and home defense and sport shooting; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Law 11-47-58 grants the State of Rhode Island, rather than the local municipality, sole jurisdiction over the control of firearms; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2573 is a bill introduced during the 2012 session of the General Assembly that would have granted local municipalities in Rhode Island jurisdiction over the control of firearms; and

WHEREAS, As public servants and the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the City Council has a moral obligation to keep dangerous weapons, such as semi-automatics, out of the hands of criminals and off of our streets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby urge the Rhode Island General Assembly to reintroduce and pass Senate Bill 2573 during the upcoming session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby express its support for a ban on the sale, use, and possession of all semi-automatic firearms within Providence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the sponsors of Senate Bill 2573 and the entire Providence General Assembly delegation.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Perry, Pichardo, Jabour, and Crowley

Date Introduced: February 28, 2012

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-47-58 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons"

2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~11-47-58. Firearms -- State preemption. Firearms. --~~ The control of firearms,

4 ammunition, or their component parts regarding their ownership, possession, transportation,

5 carrying, transfer, sale, purchase, purchase delay, licensing, registration, and taxation shall rest

6 solely with the state, ~~except as otherwise provided in this chapter~~ city or town wherein the license

7 was issued.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

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- 1 This act would remove the jurisdiction of the state over the control of firearms, and vest
- 2 control with the city or town which issues gun-related licenses.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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