

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 645

To restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas (for himself and Mr. JORDAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

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 title may be cited as the “Second Amendment
5 Enforcement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The law-abiding citizens of the District of
9 Columbia are deprived by local laws of handguns, ri-
10 fles, and shotguns that are commonly kept by law-

1 abiding persons throughout the United States for
2 sporting use and for lawful defense of their persons,
3 homes, businesses, and families.

4 (2) The District of Columbia has among the
5 highest per capita murder rates in the Nation, which
6 may be attributed in part to local laws prohibiting
7 possession of firearms by law-abiding persons who
8 would otherwise be able to defend themselves and
9 their loved ones in their own homes and businesses.

10 (3) Officials of the District of Columbia have
11 indicated their intention to continue to unduly re-
12 strict lawful firearm possession and use by citizens
13 of the District.

14 (4) Legislation is required to correct the Dis-
15 trict of Columbia's law in order to restore the funda-
16 mental rights of its citizens under the Second
17 Amendment to the United States Constitution and
18 thereby enhance public safety.

19 **SEC. 3. REFORM D.C. COUNCIL'S AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT**
20 **FIREARMS.**

21 Section 4 of the Act entitled "An Act to prohibit the
22 killing of wild birds and wild animals in the District of
23 Columbia", approved June 30, 1906 (34 Stat. 809; sec.
24 1-303.43, D.C. Official Code), is amended by adding at
25 the end the following: "Nothing in this section or any

1 other provision of law shall authorize, or shall be con-
2 strued to permit, the Council, the Mayor, or any govern-
3 mental or regulatory authority of the District of Columbia
4 to prohibit, constructively prohibit, or unduly burden the
5 ability of persons not prohibited from possessing firearms
6 under Federal law from acquiring, possessing in their
7 homes or businesses, transporting for legitimate purposes,
8 or using for sporting, self-protection or other lawful pur-
9 poses, any firearm neither prohibited by Federal law nor
10 subject to the National Firearms Act. The District of Co-
11 lumbia shall not have authority to enact laws or regula-
12 tions that discourage or eliminate the private ownership
13 or use of firearms. Nothing in the previous two sentences
14 shall be construed to prohibit the District of Columbia
15 from regulating the carrying of firearms by a person, ei-
16 ther concealed or openly, other than at the person's dwell-
17 ing place, place of business, or on other land possessed
18 by the person.”.

19 **SEC. 4. REPEAL D.C. SEMIAUTOMATIC BAN.**

20 Section 101(10) of the Firearms Control Regulations
21 Act of 1975 (sec. 7–2501.01(10), D.C. Official Code) is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 “(10) ‘Machine gun’ means any firearm which
24 shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily re-
25 stored to shoot, automatically more than one shot,

1 without manual reloading, by a single function of
 2 the trigger. The term ‘machine gun’ shall also in-
 3 clude the frame or receiver of any such firearm, any
 4 part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or
 5 combination of parts designed and intended, for use
 6 in converting a firearm into a machine gun, and any
 7 combination of parts from which a machine gun can
 8 be assembled if such parts are in the possession or
 9 under the control of a person.”.

10 **SEC. 5. REPEAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT AND AU-**
 11 **THORIZE AMMUNITION SALES.**

12 (a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 201(a) of the Fire-
 14 arms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7–
 15 2502.01(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended by strik-
 16 ing “any firearm, unless” and all that follows
 17 through paragraph (3) and inserting the following:
 18 “any firearm described in subsection (c).”.

19 (2) DESCRIPTION OF FIREARMS REMAINING IL-
 20 LEGAL.—Section 201 of such Act (sec. 7–2502.01,
 21 D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end
 22 the following new subsection:

23 “(c) A firearm described in this subsection is any of
 24 the following:

25 “(1) A sawed-off shotgun.

1 “(2) A machine gun.

2 “(3) A short-barreled rifle.”.

3 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading
4 of section 201 of such Act (sec. 7–2502.01, D.C. Of-
5 ficial Code) is amended by striking “Registration re-
6 quirements” and inserting “Firearm Possession”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO FIREARMS CON-
8 TROL REGULATIONS ACT.—The Firearms Control Regu-
9 lations Act of 1975 is amended as follows:

10 (1) Sections 202 through 211 (secs. 7–2502.02
11 through 7–2502.11, D.C. Official Code) are re-
12 pealed.

13 (2) Section 101 (sec. 7–2501.01, D.C. Official
14 Code) is amended by striking paragraph (13).

15 (3) Section 401 (sec. 7–2504.01, D.C. Official
16 Code) is amended—

17 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “the Dis-
18 trict;” and all that follows and inserting the fol-
19 lowing: “the District, except that a person may
20 engage in hand loading, reloading, or custom
21 loading of ammunition for firearms lawfully
22 possessed under this Act.”; and

23 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “which
24 are unregistrable under section 202” and in-

1 serting “which are prohibited under section
2 201”.

3 (4) Section 402 (sec. 7–2504.02, D.C. Official
4 Code) is amended—

5 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “Any
6 person eligible to register a firearm” and all
7 that follows through “such business,” and in-
8 serting the following: “Any person not other-
9 wise prohibited from possessing or receiving a
10 firearm under Federal or District law, or from
11 being licensed under section 923 of title 18,
12 United States Code,”; and

13 (B) in subsection (b), by amending para-
14 graph (1) to read as follows:

15 “(1) The applicant’s name;”.

16 (5) Section 403(b) (sec. 7–2504.03(b), D.C. Of-
17 ficial Code) is amended by striking “registration cer-
18 tificate” and inserting “dealer’s license”.

19 (6) Section 404(a)(3) (sec. 7–2504.04(a)(3)),
20 D.C. Official Code) is amended—

21 (A) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking
22 “registration certificate number (if any) of the
23 firearm,”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B)(iv), by striking
2 “holding the registration certificate” and insert-
3 ing “from whom it was received for repair”;

4 (C) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking
5 “and registration certificate number (if any) of
6 the firearm”;

7 (D) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking
8 “registration certificate number or”;

9 (E) by striking subparagraphs (D) and
10 (E).

11 (7) Section 406(c) (sec. 7–2504.06(c), D.C. Of-
12 ficial Code) is amended to read as follows:

13 “(c) Within 45 days of a decision becoming effective
14 which is unfavorable to a licensee or to an applicant for
15 a dealer’s license, the licensee or application shall—

16 “(1) lawfully remove from the District all de-
17 structive devices in his inventory, or peaceably sur-
18 render to the Chief all destructive devices in his in-
19 ventory in the manner provided in section 705; and

20 “(2) lawfully dispose, to himself or to another,
21 any firearms and ammunition in his inventory.”.

22 (8) Section 407(b) (sec. 7–2504.07(b), D.C. Of-
23 ficial Code) is amended by striking “would not be el-
24 igible” and all that follows and inserting “is prohib-

1 ited from possessing or receiving a firearm under
2 Federal or District law.”.

3 (9) Section 502 (sec. 7–2505.02, D.C. Official
4 Code) is amended—

5 (A) by amending subsection (a) to read as
6 follows:

7 “(a) Any person or organization not prohibited from
8 possessing or receiving a firearm under Federal or District
9 law may sell or otherwise transfer ammunition or any fire-
10 arm, except those which are prohibited under section 201,
11 to a licensed dealer.”;

12 (B) in subsection (b), by adding at the end
13 the following new paragraph:

14 “(3) Ammunition, excluding restricted pistol
15 bullets, to any person not otherwise prohibited from
16 possessing or receiving ammunition.”;

17 (C) by amending subsection (c) to read as
18 follows:

19 “(c) Any dealer licensed under the provisions of this
20 Act may sell or otherwise transfer a firearm to any person
21 or organization not otherwise prohibited from possessing
22 or receiving such firearm under Federal or District law.
23 In the case of a sale or transfer of a handgun to a resident
24 of the District of Columbia, a federally licensed importer,
25 manufacturer, or dealer of firearms in Maryland or Vir-

1 ginia shall be treated as a dealer licensed under the provi-
2 sions of this Act for purposes of the previous sentence,
3 notwithstanding section 922(b)(3) of title 18, United
4 States Code, if the transferee meets in person with the
5 transferor to accomplish the transfer, and the sale, deliv-
6 ery, and receipt fully comply with the legal conditions of
7 sale in both the District of Columbia and the jurisdiction
8 in which the transfer occurs.”;

9 (D) by striking subsection (d); and

10 (E) by striking subsection (e).

11 (10) Section 704 (sec. 7–2507.04, D.C. Official
12 Code) is amended—

13 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “any reg-
14 istration certificate or” and inserting “a”; and

15 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “reg-
16 istration certificate,”.

17 (c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
18 2(4) of the Illegal Firearm Sale and Distribution Strict
19 Liability Act of 1992 (sec. 7–2531.01(4), D.C. Official
20 Code) is amended—

21 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or ignor-
22 ing proof of the purchaser’s residence in the District
23 of Columbia”; and

24 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “registra-
25 tion and”.

1 **SEC. 6. REPEAL HANDGUN AMMUNITION BAN.**

2 Section 601(3) of the Firearms Control Regulations
3 Act of 1975 (sec. 7–2506.01(3), D.C. Official Code) is
4 amended by striking “is the holder of the valid registration
5 certificate for” and inserting “owns”.

6 **SEC. 7. RESTORE RIGHT OF SELF DEFENSE IN THE HOME.**

7 Section 702 of the Firearms Control Regulations Act
8 of 1975 (sec. 7–2507.02, D.C. Official Code) is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 “PENALTIES FOR ALLOWING ACCESS OF MINORS TO
11 LOADED FIREARMS IF INJURY RESULTS

12 “SEC. 702. (a) IN GENERAL.—A person in the Dis-
13 trict of Columbia is guilty of unlawful storage of a firearm
14 if—

15 “(1) the person knowingly stores or leaves a
16 loaded firearm at any premises under the person’s
17 control;

18 “(2) the person knows or reasonably should
19 know that a minor is likely to gain access to the fire-
20 arm without the permission of the minor’s parent or
21 legal guardian; and

22 “(3) the minor kills or injures any person (in-
23 cluding the minor) by discharging the firearm.

24 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—This section does not apply if—

25 “(1) the firearm was stored in a securely locked
26 container and the person did not inform the minor

1 of the location of the key to, or the combination of,
2 the container's lock;

3 “(2) the firearm was secured by a trigger lock
4 and the person did not inform the minor of the loca-
5 tion of the key to, or the combination of, the trigger
6 lock;

7 “(3) the firearm was stored on the person's
8 body or in such proximity to the person that it could
9 be used as quickly and as easily as if it were on the
10 person's body;

11 “(4) the minor's access to the firearm was a re-
12 sult of an unlawful entry;

13 “(5) when discharging the firearm, the minor
14 was acting in lawful self-defense or in defense of an-
15 other;

16 “(6) when discharging the firearm, the minor
17 was engaged in hunting or target or sport shooting
18 under the supervision of the minor's parent or
19 guardian, or under the supervision of another person
20 over the age of 18 with the parent's or guardian's
21 consent; or

22 “(7) the firearm is in the possession or control
23 of a law enforcement officer while the officer is en-
24 gaged in official duties.

1 “(c) MINOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term
2 ‘minor’ means an individual under 16 years of age.

3 “(d) PENALTY.—A person who violates this section
4 shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000, a term
5 of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

6 “(e) SPECIAL RULE IF VICTIM OF SHOOTING IS
7 CHILD OF PERSON COMMITTING VIOLATION.—If a viola-
8 tion of this section leads to the accidental shooting of a
9 minor who is the child of the person who committed the
10 violation, the United States attorney shall consider both
11 the extent of the minor’s injuries and the effect of the
12 minor’s injury or death on both of the minor’s parents
13 when deciding whether to file charges under this section.
14 No prosecution shall be brought in such circumstances un-
15 less the person who committed the violation behaved in
16 a grossly negligent manner, or unless similarly egregious
17 circumstances exist.”.

18 **SEC. 8. REMOVE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION**
19 **OF UNREGISTERED FIREARMS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 706 of the Firearms Con-
21 trol Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7–2507.06, D.C. Offi-
22 cial Code) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and re-
23 designating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

24 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
25 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to violations occur-

1 ring after the 60-day period which begins on the date of
2 the enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 9. REGULATING INOPERABLE PISTOLS AND HARMO-**
4 **NIZING DEFINITIONS FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF**
5 **FIREARMS.**

6 Section 1 of the Act of July 8, 1932 (sec. 22-4501,
7 D.C. Official Code), is amended as follows:

8 (1) Insert after paragraph (2) the following new
9 paragraph:

10 “(2A) ‘Firearm’ means any weapon, regardless
11 of operability, which will, or is designed or rede-
12 signed, made or remade, readily converted, restored,
13 or repaired, or is intended to, expel a projectile or
14 projectiles by the action of an explosive. Such term
15 does not include—

16 “(A) a destructive device, as defined in
17 section 101(7) of the Firearms Control Regula-
18 tions Act of 1975;

19 “(B) a device used exclusively for line
20 throwing, signaling, or safety, and required or
21 recommended by the Coast Guard or Interstate
22 Commerce Commission; or

23 “(C) a device used exclusively for firing ex-
24 plosive rivets, stud cartridges, or similar indus-

1 trial ammunition and incapable for use as a
2 weapon.”.

3 (2) Amend paragraph (4) to read as follows:

4 “(4) ‘Machine gun’ has the meaning given such
5 term in section 101(10) of the Firearms Control
6 Regulations Act of 1975.”.

7 (3) Amend paragraph (6) to read as follows:

8 “(6) ‘Pistol’ has the meaning given such term
9 in section 101(12) of the Firearms Control Regula-
10 tions Act of 1975.”.

11 (4) Insert after paragraph (6) the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(6A) ‘Place of business’ has the meaning given
14 such term in section 101(12A) of the Firearms Con-
15 trol Regulations Act of 1975.”.

16 (5) Amend paragraph (8) to read as follows:

17 “(8) ‘Sawed-off shotgun’ has the meaning given
18 such term in section 101(15) of the Firearms Con-
19 trol Regulations Act of 1975.”.

20 (6) Insert after paragraph (9) the following new
21 paragraph:

22 “(9A) ‘Shotgun’ has the meaning given such
23 term in section 101(16) of the Firearms Control
24 Regulations Act of 1975.”.

1 **SEC. 10. PROHIBITIONS OF FIREARMS FROM PRIVATE AND**
2 **SENSITIVE PUBLIC PROPERTY.**

3 The Act of July 8, 1932 (sec. 22–4501 et seq., D.C.
4 Official Code), is amended by inserting after section 3 the
5 following new section:

6 “PROHIBITIONS OF FIREARMS FROM PRIVATE AND
7 SENSITIVE PUBLIC PROPERTY

8 “SEC. 3A. (a) Private persons or entities owning
9 property in the District of Columbia may prohibit or re-
10 strict the possession of firearms on their property by any
11 persons, other than law enforcement personnel when law-
12 fully authorized to enter onto the property or lessees occu-
13 pying residential or business premises.

14 “(b) The District of Columbia may prohibit or re-
15 strict the possession of firearms within any building or
16 structure under its control, or in any area of such building
17 or structure, which has implemented security measures
18 (including but not limited to guard posts, metal detection
19 devices, x-ray or other scanning devices, or card-based or
20 biometric access devices) to identify and exclude unauthor-
21 ized or hazardous persons or articles, except that no such
22 prohibition or restriction may apply to lessees occupying
23 residential or business premises.”.

24 **SEC. 11. REGULATING THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS.**

25 (a) CARRYING RIFLES OR SHOTGUNS.—Section 4 of
26 the Act of July 8, 1932 (sec. 22–4504, D.C. Official

1 Code), is amended by inserting after subsection (a) the
 2 following new subsection:

3 “(a-1) Except as otherwise permitted by law, no per-
 4 son shall carry within the District of Columbia a rifle or
 5 shotgun. A person who violates this subsection shall be
 6 subject, as applicable, to the criminal penalties set forth
 7 in section 15 and paragraph (2) of subsection (a).”.

8 (b) **AUTHORITY TO CARRY FIREARM IN CERTAIN**
 9 **PLACES AND FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES; LAWFUL TRANS-**
 10 **PORTATION OF FIREARMS.**—The Act of July 8, 1932 (sec.
 11 22–4501 et seq., D.C. Official Code), is amended by in-
 12 serting after section 4 the following new sections:

13 **“AUTHORITY TO CARRY FIREARM IN CERTAIN PLACES**
 14 **AND FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES**

15 **“SEC. 4A.** Notwithstanding any other law, a person
 16 not otherwise prohibited by law from shipping, trans-
 17 porting, possessing, or receiving a firearm may carry such
 18 firearm, whether loaded or unloaded—

19 “(1) in the person’s dwelling house or place of
 20 business or on land owned or lawfully possessed by
 21 the person;

22 “(2) by invitation on land owned or lawfully
 23 possessed by another;

24 “(3) while it is being used for lawful rec-
 25 reational, sporting, educational, or training pur-
 26 poses; or

1 “(4) while it is being transported for a lawful
2 purpose as expressly authorized by District or Fed-
3 eral law and in accordance with the requirements of
4 that law.

5 “LAWFUL TRANSPORTATION OF FIREARMS

6 “SEC. 4B. (a) Any person who is not otherwise pro-
7 hibited by law from shipping, transporting, possessing, or
8 receiving a firearm shall be permitted to transport a fire-
9 arm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may
10 lawfully possess the firearm to any other place where he
11 may lawfully possess the firearm if the firearm is trans-
12 ported in accordance with this section.

13 “(b)(1) If the transportation of the firearm is by a
14 vehicle, the firearm shall be unloaded, and neither the fire-
15 arm nor any ammunition being transported shall be read-
16 ily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger
17 compartment of the transporting vehicle.

18 “(2) If the transporting vehicle does not have a com-
19 partment separate from the driver’s compartment, the
20 firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked con-
21 tainer other than the glove compartment or console, and
22 the firearm shall be unloaded.

23 “(c) If the transportation of the firearm is in a man-
24 ner other than in a vehicle, the firearm shall be—

25 “(1) unloaded;

26 “(2) inside a locked container; and

1 “(3) separate from any ammunition.”.

2 (c) EXCEPTIONS TO RESTRICTIONS ON CARRYING
3 CONCEALED WEAPONS.—Section 5 of such Act (sec. 22–
4 4505, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “pistol un-
6 loaded and in a secure wrapper from” and inserting
7 “firearm, transported in accordance with section 4b,
8 from”; and

9 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “pistol” each
10 place it appears and inserting “firearm”.

11 **SEC. 12. INCLUDING TOY AND ANTIQUE PISTOLS IN PROHI-**
12 **BITION AGAINST USING AN IMITATION FIRE-**
13 **ARM TO COMMIT A VIOLENT OR DANGEROUS**
14 **CRIME.**

15 Section 13 of the Act of July 8, 1932 (sec. 22–4513,
16 D.C. Official Code), is amended by striking “section 2 and
17 section 14(b)” and inserting “sections 2, 4(b), and 14(b)”.

18 **SEC. 13. PROVIDING JURISDICTION TO OFFICE OF ADMIN-**
19 **ISTRATIVE HEARINGS TO HEAR CASES PER-**
20 **TAINING TO DENIAL OR REVOCATION OF**
21 **FIREARM DEALER LICENSES.**

22 Section 6 of the Office of Administrative Hearings
23 Establishment Act of 2001 (D.C. Law 14–76; sec. 2–
24 1831.03, D.C. Official Code) is amended by inserting after
25 subsection (b-1) the following new subsection:

1 “(b-2) In addition to those adjudicated cases listed
2 in subsections (a), (b), and (b-1), this Act shall apply to
3 all adjudicated cases involving the denial or revocation of
4 a dealer license pursuant to section 406 of the Firearms
5 Control Regulations Act of 1975.”.

6 **SEC. 14. REPEALS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACTS.**

7 Effective on the day before the date of the enactment
8 of this Act, the Firearms Registration Amendment Act of
9 2008 (D.C. Law 17–372) and the Inoperable Pistol
10 Amendment Act of 2008 (D.C. Law 17–388) are repealed,
11 and any provision of law amended or repealed by either
12 of such Acts is restored or revived as if such Acts had
13 not been enacted into law.

14 **SEC. 15. SEVERABILITY.**

15 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, if
16 any provision of this Act, or any amendment made by this
17 Act, or the application of such provision or amendment
18 to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitu-
19 tional, the other provisions of this Act and any other
20 amendments made by this Act, and the application of such
21 provision or amendment to other persons or cir-
22 cumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

○