



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 597

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5043

House of Representatives, April 13, 2026

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONVERTIBLE PISTOLS AND UNFINISHED FRAMES OR UNFINISHED LOWER RECEIVERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 53-202 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (a) As used in this section: (1) "Machine gun" [shall apply to and
5 include] means (A) a weapon of any description, loaded or unloaded,
6 [which] that shoots, is designed to shoot or can be readily restored to
7 shoot automatically more than one projectile, without manual
8 reloading, by a single function of the trigger, including any convertible
9 pistol that is equipped with a pistol converter, as defined in subsection
10 (c) of section 53-206g, as amended by this act, and [shall also include]
11 (B) any part or combination of parts designed for use in converting a
12 weapon into a machine gun and any combination of parts from which a
13 machine gun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession of or
14 under the control of a person. (2) "Crime of violence" [shall apply to and

15 include] means any of the following-named crimes or an attempt to
16 commit any of the same: Murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, sexual
17 assault and sexual assault with a firearm, assault in the first or second
18 degree, robbery, burglary, larceny and riot in the first degree. (3)
19 "Projectile" means any size bullet that when affixed to any cartridge case
20 may be propelled through the bore of a machine gun. (4) "Convertible
21 pistol" means any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that
22 can be readily altered by hand or with a common household tool so that
23 the pistol can be readily converted into a machine gun by the installation
24 or attachment of a pistol converter, as defined in subsection (c) of section
25 53-206g, as amended by this act. "Convertible pistol" does not include
26 (A) any hammer-fired semiautomatic pistol, or (B) a pistol with a tab or
27 other piece of material that shields the cruciform trigger bar from
28 interference by a pistol converter so that the pistol can be readily
29 converted into a machine gun by the installation or attachment of a
30 pistol converter. (5) "Cruciform trigger bar" means a component in a
31 semiautomatic pistol that serves as a linkage between the trigger and
32 firing pin and has its sear incorporated in a cross-shaped surface. (6)
33 "Common household tool" includes, but is not limited to, a screwdriver,
34 wrench, hacksaw, crowbar, electric drill, rotary tool, hammer, chisel or
35 file or pliers.

36 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 53-206g of the 2026 supplement to the
37 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
38 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

39 (c) For purposes of this section, (1) "firearm" means firearm as defined
40 in section 53a-3, as amended by this act, [and] (2) "rate of fire
41 enhancement" means (A) any device, component, part, combination of
42 parts, attachment or accessory that: [(1)] (i) Uses energy from the recoil
43 of a firearm to generate a reciprocating action that causes repeated
44 function of the trigger, including, but not limited to, a bump stock; [(2)]
45 (ii) repeatedly pulls the trigger of a firearm through the use of a crank,
46 lever or other part, including, but not limited to, a trigger crank; or [(3)]
47 (iii) causes a semiautomatic firearm to fire more than one round per
48 operation of the trigger, where the trigger pull and reset constitute a

49 single operation of the trigger, including, but not limited to, a binary
50 trigger system or a pistol converter, or (B) any other device, part,
51 combination of parts, kit, tool or accessory that is not necessary for the
52 function of the pistol and that, when built into, installed in or attached
53 to the pistol, increases the rate of fire above the rate at which a person
54 can fire the firearm without the device, part, combination of parts, kit,
55 tool or accessory, and (3) "pistol converter" means any device or
56 instrument that, when installed in or attached to the rear of the slide of
57 a semiautomatic pistol, interferes with the trigger mechanism, thereby
58 enabling the pistol to discharge a number of shots or bullets rapidly or
59 automatically with one continuous pull of the trigger.

60 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Any individual or firm,
61 partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association or other
62 similar entity that imports into this state or advertises, sells, offers or
63 exposes for sale any convertible pistol, as defined in section 53-202 of
64 the general statutes, as amended by this act, that was manufactured on
65 or after October 1, 2026, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

66 (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to sale at retail or
67 other lawful transfer of a convertible pistol by a person who is not a
68 licensed gun dealer to another person who is not a licensed gun dealer.

69 Sec. 4. Section 53a-3 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is
70 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
71 *1, 2026*):

72 Except where different meanings are expressly specified, the
73 following terms have the following meanings when used in this title:

74 (1) "Person" means a human being, and, where appropriate, a public
75 or private corporation, a limited liability company, an unincorporated
76 association, a partnership, a government or a governmental
77 instrumentality;

78 (2) "Possess" means to have physical possession or otherwise to
79 exercise dominion or control over tangible property;

80 (3) "Physical injury" means impairment of physical condition or pain;

81 (4) "Serious physical injury" means physical injury which creates a
82 substantial risk of death, or which causes serious disfigurement, serious
83 impairment of health or serious loss or impairment of the function of
84 any bodily organ;

85 (5) "Deadly physical force" means physical force which can be
86 reasonably expected to cause death or serious physical injury;

87 (6) "Deadly weapon" means any weapon, whether loaded or
88 unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife,
89 gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles. The
90 definition of "deadly weapon" in this subdivision shall be deemed not
91 to apply to section 29-38 or 53-206 and does not include an electronic
92 defense weapon when used by a peace officer;

93 (7) "Dangerous instrument" means any instrument, article or
94 substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used or
95 attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or
96 serious physical injury, and includes a "vehicle" as that term is defined
97 in this section and includes a dog that has been commanded to attack,
98 except a dog owned by a law enforcement agency of the state or any
99 political subdivision thereof or of the federal government when such
100 dog is in the performance of its duties under the direct supervision, care
101 and control of an assigned law enforcement officer;

102 (8) "Vehicle" means a "motor vehicle" as defined in section 14-1, a
103 snowmobile, any aircraft, or any vessel equipped for propulsion by
104 mechanical means or sail;

105 (9) "Peace officer" means a member of the Division of State Police
106 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or
107 an organized local police department, a chief inspector or inspector in
108 the Division of Criminal Justice, a state marshal while exercising
109 authority granted under any provision of the general statutes, a judicial
110 marshal in the performance of the duties of a judicial marshal, a

111 conservation officer or special conservation officer, as defined in section
112 26-5, a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, a
113 special policeman appointed under section 29-18, 29-18a, 29-18b or 29-
114 19, an adult probation officer, an official of the Department of Correction
115 authorized by the Commissioner of Correction to make arrests in a
116 correctional institution or facility, any investigator in the investigations
117 unit of the office of the State Treasurer, an inspector of motor vehicles in
118 the Department of Motor Vehicles, who is certified under the provisions
119 of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive, a United States marshal or deputy
120 marshal, any special agent of the federal government authorized to
121 enforce the provisions of Title 21 of the United States Code, or a member
122 of a law enforcement unit of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe or the
123 Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut created and governed by a
124 memorandum of agreement under section 47-65c who is certified as a
125 police officer by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council
126 pursuant to sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive;

127 (10) "Firefighter" means any agent of a municipality whose duty it is
128 to protect life and property therein as a member of a duly constituted
129 fire department whether professional or volunteer;

130 (11) A person acts "intentionally" with respect to a result or to conduct
131 described by a statute defining an offense when his conscious objective
132 is to cause such result or to engage in such conduct;

133 (12) A person acts "knowingly" with respect to conduct or to a
134 circumstance described by a statute defining an offense when he is
135 aware that his conduct is of such nature or that such circumstance exists;

136 (13) A person acts "recklessly" with respect to a result or to a
137 circumstance described by a statute defining an offense when he is
138 aware of and consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk
139 that such result will occur or that such circumstance exists. The risk
140 must be of such nature and degree that disregarding it constitutes a
141 gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a reasonable person
142 would observe in the situation;

143 (14) A person acts with "criminal negligence" with respect to a result
144 or to a circumstance described by a statute defining an offense when he
145 fails to perceive a substantial and unjustifiable risk that such result will
146 occur or that such circumstance exists. The risk must be of such nature
147 and degree that the failure to perceive it constitutes a gross deviation
148 from the standard of care that a reasonable person would observe in the
149 situation;

150 (15) "Machine gun" means a weapon of any description, irrespective
151 of size, by whatever name known, loaded or unloaded, from which a
152 number of shots or bullets may be rapidly or automatically discharged
153 from a magazine with one continuous pull of the trigger and includes a
154 submachine gun and any convertible pistol, as defined in section 53-202,
155 as amended by this act, that is in the possession of an individual person
156 who is also in the possession of a pistol converter, as defined in
157 subsection (c) of section 53-206g, as amended by this act;

158 (16) "Rifle" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or
159 remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or
160 redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a
161 fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled
162 bore for each single pull of the trigger;

163 (17) "Shotgun" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or
164 remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or
165 redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a
166 fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball
167 shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger;

168 (18) "Pistol" or "revolver" means any firearm having a barrel less than
169 twelve inches;

170 (19) "Firearm" means any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle,
171 shotgun, pistol, revolver or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded
172 from which a shot may be discharged;

173 (20) "Electronic defense weapon" means a weapon which by

174 electronic impulse or current is capable of immobilizing a person
175 temporarily, including a stun gun or other conductive energy device;

176 (21) "Martial arts weapon" means a nunchaku, kama, kasari-fundo,
177 octagon sai, tonfa or chinese star;

178 (22) "Employee of an emergency medical service organization" means
179 an ambulance driver, emergency medical technician or paramedic as
180 defined in section 19a-175;

181 (23) "Railroad property" means all tangible property owned, leased
182 or operated by a railroad carrier including, but not limited to, a right-of-
183 way, track, roadbed, bridge, yard, shop, station, tunnel, viaduct, trestle,
184 depot, warehouse, terminal or any other structure or appurtenance or
185 equipment owned, leased or used in the operation of a railroad carrier
186 including a train, locomotive, engine, railroad car, signals or safety
187 device or work equipment or rolling stock;

188 (24) "Serious firearm offense" means a violation of section 29-36, 29-
189 36a, as amended by this act, or 53-202w, possession of a stolen firearm
190 or a firearm that is altered in a manner that renders the firearm
191 unlawful, or any crime of which an essential element is that the person
192 discharged, used or was armed with and threatened the use of a firearm;
193 and

194 (25) "Serious firearm offender" means a person who has (A) two
195 convictions for a serious firearm offense, (B) a conviction for a serious
196 firearm offense and was previously convicted of a violation of section
197 29-36, 29-36a, as amended by this act, subdivision (1) of subsection (a)
198 of section 53a-217 or subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-217c,
199 or (C) a conviction for a serious firearm offense and was previously
200 convicted of two or more additional felony offenses.

201 Sec. 5. Section 53-206j of the general statutes is repealed and the
202 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

203 (a) No person shall purchase or receive or sell, deliver or otherwise
204 transfer an unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver, except as

205 provided in: (1) Subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or (2) subsection
206 (d) of this section; or (3) subsection (e) of this section.

207 (b) The procedures for the purchase or receipt or sale, delivery or
208 other transfer of an unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver shall
209 be the same procedures as apply to the purchase or receipt or sale,
210 delivery or other transfer of a pistol or revolver under subsections (b) to
211 (e), inclusive, of section 29-33, provided such purchase or receipt or sale,
212 delivery or other transfer of an unfinished frame or unfinished lower
213 receiver is in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this
214 section.

215 (c) (1) No person shall sell, deliver or otherwise transfer an unfinished
216 frame or unfinished lower receiver pursuant to subsection (b) of this
217 section that does not have a unique serial number or other mark of
218 identification, obtained pursuant to: (A) The serial numbering program
219 of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or
220 (B) subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection.

221 (2) A person may obtain a unique serial number or other mark of
222 identification for an unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver by
223 providing to the Department of Emergency Services and Public
224 Protection any identifying information concerning the unfinished frame
225 or unfinished lower receiver and the owner of such unfinished frame or
226 unfinished lower receiver, in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner
227 of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Upon receiving a properly
228 submitted request for a unique serial number or other mark of
229 identification for an unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver, the
230 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall
231 determine if such person is prohibited from purchasing a firearm, and
232 if not, shall issue to such person a unique serial number or other mark
233 of identification immediately and in no instance more than (A) three
234 business days after the Department of Emergency Services and Public
235 Protection receives such request, or (B) ten business days after the
236 system to distribute a unique serial number or other mark of
237 identification pursuant to section 29-36b, as amended by this act, is

238 operational, whichever date is later.

239 (3) Such unique serial number or other mark of identification shall be
240 engraved upon or permanently affixed to the unfinished frame or
241 unfinished lower receiver in a manner that conforms with the
242 requirements imposed on licensed importers and licensed
243 manufacturers of firearms pursuant to 18 USC 923(i), as amended from
244 time to time, and any regulation adopted thereunder.

245 (d) The provisions of subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section
246 shall not apply to the sale, delivery or transfer of any unfinished frame
247 or unfinished lower receiver between (1) a federally licensed firearm
248 manufacturer and a federally licensed firearm dealer, (2) a federally
249 licensed firearm importer and a federally licensed firearm dealer, or (3)
250 federally licensed firearm dealers.

251 (e) Any person may arrange in advance to deliver and transfer an
252 unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver to a police department or
253 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

254 (f) On and after October 1, 2019, no person shall possess an unfinished
255 frame or unfinished lower receiver unless such person is eligible to
256 purchase a firearm under state and federal law.

257 (g) If the court finds that a violation of this section is not of a serious
258 nature and that the person charged with such violation (1) will probably
259 not offend in the future, (2) has not previously been convicted of a
260 violation of this section, and (3) has not previously had a prosecution
261 under this section suspended pursuant to this subsection, the court may
262 order suspension of prosecution. The court shall not order suspension
263 of prosecution unless the accused person has acknowledged that he or
264 she understands the consequences of the suspension of prosecution.
265 Any person for whom prosecution is suspended shall agree to the
266 tolling of any statute of limitations with respect to such violation and to
267 a waiver of his or her right to a speedy trial. Such person shall appear in
268 court and shall be released to the supervision of the Court Support
269 Services Division for such period, not exceeding two years, and under

270 such conditions as the court shall order. If the person refuses to accept,
271 or, having accepted, violates such conditions, the court shall terminate
272 the suspension of prosecution and the case shall be brought to trial. If
273 such person satisfactorily completes such person's period of probation,
274 he or she may apply for dismissal of the charges against such person
275 and the court, on finding such satisfactory completion, shall dismiss
276 such charges. If the person does not apply for dismissal of the charges
277 against such person after satisfactorily completing such person's period
278 of probation, the court, upon receipt of a report submitted by the Court
279 Support Services Division that the person satisfactorily completed such
280 person's period of probation, may on its own motion make a finding of
281 such satisfactory completion and dismiss such charges. Upon dismissal,
282 all records of such charges shall be erased pursuant to section 54-142a.
283 An order of the court denying a motion to dismiss the charges against a
284 person who has completed such person's period of probation or
285 terminating the participation of a defendant in such program shall be a
286 final judgment for purposes of appeal.

287 (h) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
288 guilty of a class C felony for which two years of the sentence imposed
289 may not be suspended or reduced by the court, and five thousand
290 dollars of the fine imposed may not be remitted or reduced by the court
291 unless the court states on the record its reasons for remitting or reducing
292 such fine, except that any person who sells, delivers or otherwise
293 transfers an unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver in violation
294 of the provisions of this section knowing that such unfinished frame or
295 unfinished lower receiver is stolen or that the manufacturer's number or
296 other mark of identification on such unfinished frame or unfinished
297 lower receiver has been altered, removed or obliterated, shall be guilty
298 of a class B felony for which three years of the sentence imposed may
299 not be suspended or reduced by the court, and ten thousand dollars of
300 the fine imposed may not be remitted or reduced by the court unless the
301 court states on the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine,
302 and any unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver found in the
303 possession of any person in violation of any provision of this section
304 shall be forfeited.

305 (i) For purposes of this section, ["unfinished frame or lower receiver"]
306 "unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver" means a blank, casting,
307 [or machined body intended to be turned into the frame or lower
308 receiver of a firearm, as defined in section 53a-3, with additional
309 machining, and which has been formed or machined to the point where
310 most major machining operations have been completed to turn the
311 blank, casting or machined body into a frame or lower receiver of a
312 firearm, even if the fire-control cavity area of such blank, casting or
313 machined body is still completely solid and unmachined. An
314 "unfinished frame or lower receiver" is not a firearm, as defined in 18
315 USC 921(a), as amended from time to time] forging, printing, extrusion,
316 machined body or similar item that (1) has reached a stage in
317 manufacture where it may readily be completed into the frame or
318 receiver of a functional firearm; or (2) is marketed or sold to the public
319 to become or be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm
320 once completed.

321 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 29-28 of the 2026 supplement to the
322 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
323 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

324 (b) (1) No person who sells ten or more firearms in a calendar year or
325 is a federally licensed firearm dealer shall advertise, sell, deliver, or offer
326 or expose for sale or delivery, or have in such person's possession with
327 intent to sell or deliver, any pistol or revolver at retail without having a
328 permit therefor issued as provided in this subsection. No individual or
329 firm, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association or
330 other similar entity may within this state advertise, sell, deliver or offer
331 or expose for sale or delivery, or have in such individual's or firm's,
332 partnership's, corporation's, limited liability company's, association's or
333 other similar entity's possession with the intent to sell at retail or deliver,
334 any unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver, as defined in section
335 53-206j, as amended by this act, without having a permit therefor issued
336 as provided in this subsection.

337 (2) The local permitting authority may, upon the application of any

338 person, issue a permit in such form as may be prescribed by the
339 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the sale
340 at retail of firearms within the jurisdiction of the local permitting
341 authority. No permit for the sale at retail of firearms shall be issued
342 unless the applicant holds a valid eligibility certificate for a pistol or
343 revolver issued pursuant to section 29-36f or a valid state permit to carry
344 a pistol or revolver issued pursuant to subsection (c) of this section; and
345 the applicant submits documentation sufficient to establish that local
346 zoning requirements have been met for the location where the sale is to
347 take place, except that any person selling or exchanging a pistol or
348 revolver for the enhancement of a personal collection or for a hobby or
349 who sells all or part of such person's personal collection of pistols or
350 revolvers shall not be required to submit such documentation for the
351 location where the sale or exchange is to take place.

352 (3) Any person holding a valid permit for the sale at retail of pistols
353 or revolvers issued on or before September 30, 2023, shall be deemed to
354 be a holder of a valid permit for the sale at retail of firearms until such
355 permit for the sale at retail of pistols or revolvers expires or is revoked,
356 suspended, confiscated or surrendered. The holder of such permit may
357 renew such permit as a permit for the sale at retail of firearms pursuant
358 to section 29-30.

359 Sec. 7. Subdivision (2) of section 52-571o of the 2026 supplement to
360 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
361 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

362 (2) "Firearm industry product" means any of the following which are
363 or were (A) sold, made or distributed in this state; or (B) possessed in
364 this state and it was known by the firearm industry member that such
365 product would be sold, made, distributed or possessed in this state:

366 (i) Ammunition or a magazine as those terms are defined in section
367 29-38m;

368 (ii) A firearm as defined in section 53a-3, as amended by this act;

369 (iii) An unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver as defined in
370 section 53-206j, as amended by this act; or

371 (iv) A rate of [firearm] fire enhancement as defined in section 53-206g,
372 as amended by this act.

373 Sec. 8. Subsection (d) of section 29-36a of the general statutes is
374 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
375 *1, 2026*):

376 (d) The provisions of subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section shall
377 not apply to the manufacture of a firearm manufactured using an
378 unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver, as defined in section 53-
379 206j, as amended by this act, on which a serial number or other mark
380 has been engraved or permanently affixed pursuant to subsection (c) of
381 section 53-206j, as amended by this act.

382 Sec. 9. Section 29-36b of the general statutes is repealed and the
383 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

384 Not later than October 1, 2019, the Department of Emergency Services
385 and Public Protection, in consultation with the federal Bureau of
386 Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as needed, shall develop and
387 maintain a system to distribute a unique serial number or other mark of
388 identification to any person requesting such number or mark pursuant
389 to section 29-36a or 53-206j, as amended by this act, and provide written
390 notification that such system is operational by: (1) Posting the
391 notification on the department's Internet web site, and (2) providing the
392 notification electronically to federally licensed firearm dealers. The
393 department shall maintain identifying information of the person
394 requesting the number or mark and of the firearm or unfinished frame
395 or unfinished lower receiver, as defined in section 53-206j, as amended
396 by this act, for which each such number or mark is requested.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	53-202(a)

Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	53-206g(c)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 4	October 1, 2026	53a-3
Sec. 5	October 1, 2026	53-206j
Sec. 6	October 1, 2026	29-28(b)
Sec. 7	October 1, 2026	52-571o(2)
Sec. 8	October 1, 2026	29-36a(d)
Sec. 9	October 1, 2026	29-36b

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 7 (2)(iv), "rate of firearm enhancement" was changed to "rate of [firearm] fire enhancement" for accuracy.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Correction, Dept.; Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill creates a new class D felony for anyone to import, advertise, sell, offer, or expose for sale a convertible pistol and expands other firearms-related definitions, resulting in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300¹ while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600² each year for adults and \$450 each year for juveniles.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would

¹ Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these expenses would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

² Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

continue into the future subject to the number of offenses and fines collected.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5043*****AN ACT CONCERNING CONVERTIBLE PISTOLS AND UNFINISHED FRAMES OR UNFINISHED LOWER RECEIVERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill generally makes it a class D felony for anyone or any legal entity (firm, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association, or other similar entity) to import into Connecticut or advertise, sell, offer, or expose for sale any convertible pistol manufactured on or after October 1, 2026. A class D felony is punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine up to \$5,000, or both. The bill does not apply this provision to retail sale or other lawful transfer of a convertible pistol by someone who is not a licensed gun dealer to another person who is not a licensed gun dealer.

Under the bill, a “convertible pistol” is any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar (see below) that can be readily altered by hand or with a common household tool (screwdriver, wrench, hacksaw, crowbar, electric drill, rotary tool, hammer, chisel or file, or pliers) so that the pistol can be readily converted into a machine gun by installing or attaching a pistol converter.

The bill also expressly states that any convertible pistol that is equipped with a pistol converter is considered a machine gun. Under the bill, a “pistol converter” is any device or instrument that, when installed in or attached to the rear of the slide of a semiautomatic pistol, interferes with the trigger mechanism, and in so doing enables the pistol to discharge a number of shots or bullets rapidly or automatically with one continuous pull of the trigger.

It also explicitly states that for purpose of the penal code in general, “machine gun” includes any convertible pistol that is possessed by an

individual who also possesses a pistol converter.

Existing law generally prohibits buying or selling rate of fire enhancements (such as bump stocks). The bill expands current law's definition of "rate of fire enhancement" to include a pistol converter or any other device, part, combination of parts, kit, tool, or accessory that is not necessary for the function of the pistol and that, when built into, installed in, or attached to the pistol, increases the rate of fire above the rate at which a person can otherwise fire the firearm. In doing so, it generally makes it a class D felony to sell, offer to sell, otherwise transfer or offer to transfer, purchase, possess, use, or manufacture them, as is the case for other "rate of fire enhancements" under existing law.

Existing law generally prohibits buying or selling an "unfinished frame or lower receiver" and sets other related restrictions. The bill redefines this term ("unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver" under the bill) to mean a blank, casting, forging, printing, extrusion, machined body, or similar item that (1) has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed into the frame or receiver of a functional firearm; or (2) is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed. It also prohibits anyone without a local dealer permit from advertising, selling, or delivering these; offering or exposing them for sale or delivery; or possessing them with the intent to sell them at retail or deliver them.

Lastly, it makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

DEFINITIONS

For Laws Specific to Offenses Against Public Peace and Safety

Machine Gun. The bill expressly states that any convertible pistol that is equipped with a pistol converter is a machine gun. Under existing law, a "machine gun" is (1) any weapon, loaded or unloaded, that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot automatically more than one projectile, without manual reloading, by a

single function of the trigger, and (2) any part or combination of parts designed to convert a weapon into a machine gun and any combination of parts from which a machine gun can be assembled if a person possessed or controlled these parts.

Convertible Pistol. The bill specifies that “convertible pistol” does not include (1) any hammer-fired semiautomatic pistol or (2) a pistol with a tab or other piece of material that shields the cruciform trigger bar from interference by a pistol converter so that the pistol can be readily converted into a machine gun by installing or attaching a pistol converter.

Cruciform Trigger Bar. Under the bill, a “cruciform trigger bar” is a component in a semiautomatic pistol that serves as a linkage between the trigger and firing pin and has its sear incorporated in a cross-shaped surface.

RATE OF FIRE ENHANCEMENT

The law generally makes it a class D felony for anyone, except a federally licensed firearms manufacturer fulfilling a military contract, to sell, offer to sell, otherwise transfer or offer to transfer, purchase, possess, use, or manufacture a “rate of fire enhancement” (such as a bump stock). The bill expands “rate of fire enhancement” to include a pistol converter or any other device, part, combination of parts, kit, tool, or accessory that is not necessary for the function of the pistol and that, when built into, installed in, or attached to the pistol, increases the rate of fire above the rate at which a person can otherwise fire the firearm. In doing so it subjects anyone who sells, offers to sell, otherwise transfers or offers to transfer, purchases, possesses, uses, or manufactures them to the penalties described above.

UNFINISHED FRAME OR UNFINISHED LOWER RECEIVER

Under current law, “unfinished frame or lower receiver” means a blank, casting, or machined body intended to be turned into the frame or lower receiver of a firearm, with additional machining, and which has been formed or machined to the point where most major machining

operations have been completed to turn the blank, casting, or machined body into a frame or lower receiver of a firearm, even if the fire-control cavity area of the blank, casting, or machined body is still completely solid and unmachined. Current law also specifies that an “unfinished frame or lower receiver” is not a firearm as defined under federal law.

The bill clarifies that “unfinished frame or lower receiver” refers to an “unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver” and makes corresponding changes throughout. It also redefines the term to mean a blank, casting, forging, printing, extrusion, machined body, or similar item that (1) has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed into the frame or receiver of a functional firearm; or (2) is marketed or sold to the public as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed. The bill maintains existing law’s general prohibition on purchasing, receiving, selling, delivering, or otherwise transferring them; procedural requirements for doing so if allowed; requirements for unique serial numbers or other identification marks; and penalties for violations.

The bill prohibits individuals or legal entities from advertising, selling, delivering, or offering or exposing for sale or delivery, or possessing with the intent to sell at retail or deliver, any unfinished frame or unfinished lower receiver in Connecticut without a local dealer permit. By law, anyone with a valid permit for the sale at retail of pistols or revolvers issued on or before September 30, 2023, holds a valid permit for the sale at retail of pistols or revolvers until it expires or is revoked, suspended, confiscated, or surrendered. The permit holder may then renew the permit as a permit for the sale at retail of firearms.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 12 (03/24/2026)