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ResearchReport

REVISED

Summary of State Gun Laws

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Issue

Summarize Connecticut's gun laws. (This report updates OLR Report 2020-R-0025.)

Summary

The Connecticut Constitution (Article First, § 15) gives every citizen the right to bear arms in defense of himself or herself and the state. For regulatory purposes, state law designates four types of firearms: handguns (pistols and revolvers), long guns (rifles and shotguns), assault weapons, and machine guns. The degree of regulation depends on the type of firearm and, for sales and transfers, whether they are being conducted by federal firearms licensed gun dealers or by private sellers not required to be licensed. Certain categories of people may not legally possess firearms or get credentials to carry them.

Gun dealers must be federally licensed and if they sell handguns, they must obtain a local permit to sell them. They must follow specified procedures when selling firearms and meet other criteria in law. With few exceptions, (1) anyone acquiring a handgun in Connecticut, whether from a federally licensed gun dealer or private seller, must have an eligibility certificate or a permit to sell or carry handguns and (2) anyone carrying a handgun must have a permit to carry handguns. No permit or certificate is required to possess lawfully acquired handguns in one's home or place of business or on land he or she leases or owns.

Anyone buying or otherwise acquiring a handgun in Connecticut, including at a gun show, or applying for a gun permit or eligibility certificate must follow prescribed procedures and meet certain statutory criteria (e.g., passing criminal history checks and being deemed suitable). The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) is responsible for regulating

most handgun sales and transfers, whether by licensed dealers or private sellers. Additionally, applicants for a handgun permit or eligibility certificate must pass a DESPP-approved course on handgun safety and use.

With certain exceptions, anyone acquiring a long gun in Connecticut must present a valid long gun eligibility certificate, handgun eligibility certificate, handgun permit, or gun dealer's permit. The law does not require a permit or other credential to carry long guns. Long gun sales and transfers generally must conform to specified state procedures (e.g., criminal history checks). The procedures differ in some respects for gun dealers versus other sellers.

State law generally requires anyone buying ammunition to have an ammunition certificate or a state-issued gun credential and be at least age 18. Additionally, with exceptions, the law prohibits selling, buying, or possessing a large capacity magazine (LCM) unless the owner lawfully possessed the magazine before state law banned it and declared it to DESPP. Generally, LCMs are magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

With minor exceptions, state law prohibits giving an assault weapon to anyone; distributing, transporting, or importing an assault weapon; or keeping, offering, or exposing any such weapon for sale. It also, with minor exceptions, prohibits possession of an assault weapon unless the owner lawfully possessed the weapon before state law banned it and obtained a certificate of possession from DESPP for it (in effect, registered the weapon).

State law generally requires anyone who owns a machine gun to register it with DESPP within 24 hours of acquiring it and annually thereafter on July 1. It is illegal to use them for offensive or aggressive purposes, as defined in law, or to transfer them to anyone under age 16.

Federal law contains a court procedure for restoring firearm privileges lost because of a federal commitment or adjudication. State law contains a similar procedure for restoring privileges lost because of a state adjudication or commitment.

The law, with few exceptions, prohibits carrying firearms at certain locations, such as on school property or in any building where either chamber of the legislature is located or where a legislative committee is holding a public hearing. It also prohibits anyone from storing or keeping any firearm on any premises under such person's control, unless the person either, among other things, keeps the firearm locked up or carries it on his or her person. Additionally, the law generally prohibits storing or keeping a handgun in an unattended motor vehicle unless it is in the trunk, a locked safe, or a locked glove box.

The law generally makes individuals subject to certain civil orders of protection ineligible (1) for gun permits or firearms eligibility certificates and (2) to possess firearms and ammunition. By law, the DESPP commissioner must follow a specific process to reinstate revoked credentials and return firearms and ammunition when the civil protection order expires. Under limited circumstances and specified procedures, law enforcement officials may get warrants and seize firearms from people posing an imminent risk of harming themselves or someone else.

In addition to the topics mentioned above, state law also regulates other gun-related matters, including setting restrictions on bump stocks and "ghost guns." Tables 4 and 5 at the end of this report classify Connecticut's gun-related offenses and penalties, and Table 6 shows the penalties for various classes of offenses.

In a number of areas, there are related federal laws not discussed in this report. It also does not examine laws concerning the prevention or investigation of gun violence.

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Handguns

Pistols and revolvers are usually referred to as handguns. The law defines “pistol” and “revolver” as any firearm having a barrel less than 12 inches long (CGS § 29-27). The law regulates handgun sales by licensed gun dealers and private sellers, irrespective of where the transaction occurs. The

provisions generally do not apply to antique firearms (CGS § 29-33(g), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6).

Permit Needed to Sell Handguns Over Certain Limit

Federal law requires anyone in the business of selling firearms to have a federal firearms license (FFLs). Under state law, FFLs who sell firearms, including handguns, must also have a local permit (i.e., a dealer's permit) to sell firearms issued by the police chief (or the municipality's chief executive officer or the appropriate resident state trooper or state police officer designated by the chief executive officer), as must anyone who sells 10 or more firearms in a calendar year. To get the permit, the applicant must hold a valid eligibility certificate or gun permit and generally submit documentation showing that the premises where the firearms will be sold complies with local zoning requirements (CGS § 29-28(a), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, and PA 23-130, § 1).

The fee to get and renew the dealer's permit is $200 (CGS § 29-30(a), as amended by PA 23-53, § 6, PA 23-73, § 1, and PA 23-130, § 4). (The law does not specify the validity period. But in practice, it is five years.)

Permit Required to Carry Handguns

With minor exceptions discussed below, anyone carrying handguns in Connecticut must have a gun permit and carry it upon his or her person when carrying a handgun (CGS § 29-35, as amended by PA 23-53, § 1, and PA 23-203, § 1). The gun permit is issued under a two-part process, with both municipal and state approval.

The local issuing authority (municipal or tribal police chief, municipal chief executive officer, or designated resident state trooper or state police officer) investigates applicants, including conducting a background check, and issues a temporary state permit, after which the State Police conducts state and national criminal history record checks on the applicants and issues the five-year state permit (CGS § 29-28, as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, and PA 23-130, § 1; CGS § 29-28a, as amended by PA 23-53, § 46, and PA 23-130, § 2; and CGS § 29-29, as amended by PA 23-130, § 3).

The law does not limit the number of handguns a permit holder may carry, but generally limits a person to only three handgun retail purchases in a 30-day period (CGS § 29-33(f), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6). PA 23-53, §§ 1 & 2, generally prohibits anyone from knowingly carrying a firearm, including handguns, with intent to display it (see *Restrictions on Carrying Firearms* below). No permit or other credential is required to possess lawfully acquired handguns in one's home or place of business or on land he or she leases or owns (CGS § 29-35, as

amended by PA 23-53, § 1, and PA 23-203, § 1) (see *Permit or Eligibility Certificate Required to Buy or Get Handguns* below).

The law requires a permit holder to (1) carry the permit while carrying a handgun and (2) present his or her permit to a law enforcement officer who requests it for purposes of verifying the permit's validity or person's identity if the officer observes the person carrying a handgun and has reasonable suspicion of a crime (CGS § 29-35(b), as amended by PA 23-53, § 1, and PA 23-203, § 1). Failure to carry one's permit when carrying a handgun, or present the permit under the above circumstances, is an infraction punishable by a $35 fine (CGS § 29-37(d), as amended by PA 23-53, § 2). Anyone carrying a handgun without having obtained a permit is guilty of a class D felony (see Table 6), with a one-year mandatory minimum sentence in the absence of mitigating circumstances. Any handgun found in the possession of any person in violation of this law must be forfeited (CGS § 29-37(b), as amended by PA 23-53, § 2).

Exemptions. The law exempts the following from the permit requirement:

1. Connecticut parole and peace officers;
2. other states' parole or peace officers on official business;
3. federal marshals and law enforcement officers;
4. legally appointed and certified motor vehicle inspectors;
5. state or U.S. Armed Forces members on, or going to or from, duty; and
6. members of a military organization on parade or going to or from a place of assembly.

It also exempts anyone carrying a handgun:

1. in its original package from the point of purchase to his or her home or business place,
2. as merchandise,
3. for repair or when moving household goods,
4. to or from a testing range at a firearm permit-issuing authority's request, or
5. to a competition or exhibit under an out-of-state permit (see below) (CGS § 29-35, as amended by PA 23-53, § 1, and PA 23-203, § 1).

Nonresidents. Any nonresident with a valid out-of-state gun permit may apply directly to the DESPP commissioner for a Connecticut gun permit (CGS § 29-28(f), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, and PA 23-130, § 1).

Also, bona fide nonresidents permitted to possess and carry handguns in their home state may transport handguns in Connecticut without a Connecticut permit for the purpose of (1) participating in competitions; (2) participating in firearm training at a firing range, training facility, or fish and game or sporting club; (3) taking the firearm for repair, or (4) attending meetings or exhibitions of organized gun collectors (CGS § 29-35, as amended by PA 23-53, § 1, and PA 23-203, § 1). And nonresidents may transport handguns and other firearms without a Connecticut permit through Connecticut for lawful purposes in accordance with federal law if they are not otherwise prohibited from shipping, transporting, receiving, or possessing guns and are transporting them between states where they can legally possess and carry them (CGS § 29-38d). These firearms must be unloaded and the firearm and any ammunition must not be readily or directly accessible to the passenger.

Permit or Eligibility Certificate Required to Buy or Get Handguns

Except for federal marshals and parole and peace officers, anyone acquiring a handgun in Connecticut must be a state resident (a federal requirement) and present a valid gun dealer's permit, handgun eligibility certificate, or handgun permit (CGS § 29-33(b), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6; 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(a)(3), 922(a)(5) & 922(b)(3); and 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.29a & 478.30). To get the gun permit or eligibility certificate, an applicant must complete a DESPP-approved handgun safety and use course, pass state and national criminal history record checks, and meet other criteria discussed below (CGS § 29-28(b), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, and PA 23-130, § 1; and CGS § 29-36f; see *People Barred From Possessing Handguns* below).

Eligibility Certificate. DESPP issues the eligibility certificate that allows an individual to get handguns and keep them at his or her home or business place. It does not authorize the holder to carry handguns upon his or her person (CGS § 29-36f, as amended by PA 23-53, § 30, and PA 23-89, § 5).

The fee to get or renew an eligibility certificate is $35. The certificate is valid for five years (CGS § 29-36h, as amended by PA 23-73, § 2).

Handgun Permit. By law, handgun permits are issued under a two-part process, requiring approval from both the local issuing authority and DESPP. The local official investigates applicants

using a background check, among other things, and issues a temporary state permit. The local official (who issues the temporary state permit) must find that an applicant (1) wants the firearm for lawful purposes and (2) is a suitable person to get a permit. The law does not define suitability. The determination of suitability is left to the official's discretion (CGS § 29-28(b), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, and PA 23-130, § 1).

The State Police conducts state and national criminal history record checks on the applicants. The fee for an initial gun permit is $140, plus sufficient funds to pay for the FBI national criminal history record checks. The permit is valid for five years and renewable for $70 (CGS § 29-30, as amended by PA 23-53, § 6, PA 23-73, § 1, and PA 23-130, § 4).

Revocation

The DESPP commissioner may revoke any state or temporary state gun permit for cause. He must revoke the permit upon a permit holder's conviction of a felony or certain disqualifying misdemeanors or the occurrence of any other event that would disqualify the person from obtaining the permit (see below) (CGS § 29-32).

Likewise, the DESPP commissioner must revoke an eligibility certificate upon any occurrence that would disqualify the certificate holder (CGS § 29-36i).

Anyone who fails to surrender any revoked permit or certificate within five days of being notified is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. Permit and certificate holders may appeal any revocation to the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners (see below) (CGS § 29-32b).

Confidentiality of Gun Permit and Certificate Information

The name and address of anyone issued a gun permit, gun dealer's permit, or eligibility certificate are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. The information is disclosable only to (1) law enforcement officials performing their duties, including employees of the U.S. Probation Office and parole officers within the Department of Correction (DOC); (2) handgun transferors seeking to verify the validity of gun permits or eligibility certificates, to the extent necessary; and (3) the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) commissioner to carry out specified statutes (CGS § 29-28(d), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, and PA 23-130, § 1; CGS § 29-36g; and CGS § 17a-500, as amended by PA 23-89, § 10).

People Barred From Possessing Handguns or Getting Credentials

State law bars certain categories of people from acquiring, possessing, or carrying handguns or getting the credentials to acquire, possess, or carry them (CGS § 53a-217c, as amended by PA 23-

53, § 32, and PA 23-89, § 9; CGS § 29-28(b), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, and PA 23-130, § 1; and CGS § 29-36f, as amended by PA 23-53, § 30, and PA 23-89, § 5). It requires gun owners to surrender their handguns to DESPP (or municipal police on DESPP's behalf) or transfer them to someone eligible after the occurrence of any event that makes them ineligible to possess handguns or other firearms. People who become ineligible because they are the subject of a restraining or protective order may transfer the firearms to licensed gun dealers or to the DESPP commissioner (or municipal police on DESPP's behalf) (CGS § 29-36k). Illegal possession of a handgun is a class C felony with a two-year mandatory minimum sentence, and a $5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record why it remits or reduces it (CGS § 53a-217c, as amended by PA 23-53, § 32, and PA 23-89, § 9).

Undocumented noncitizens are prohibited from possessing handguns or getting the credentials, as is anyone:

1. discharged from custody in the preceding 20 years after a finding of not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect;

2. confined by the probate court to a psychiatric hospital in the 60 months before applying for a credential;

3. within the past six months, voluntarily admitted to or committed under a physician's emergency certificate to a psychiatric hospital, except when it is solely for alcohol- or drug-dependency;

4. convicted as delinquent of a serious juvenile offense (CGS § 46b-120(10), as amended by PA 23-46, § 11);

5. who knows that he or she is the subject of a firearm seizure order issued after notice and a hearing before June 1, 2022, or a risk protection order or risk protection investigation order issued on or after June 1, 2022;

6. prohibited by federal law from possessing or shipping firearms because he or she was adjudicated as a "mental defective" or committed to a mental institution (except in cases where the U.S. Treasury Department grants relief from this disability);

7. under a protective or restraining order for using, attempting, or threatening to use physical force, including ex parte orders;

8. prohibited under federal law from shipping, transporting, possessing, or receiving a firearm because he or she is a fugitive from justice or has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence; or

9. convicted of any felony or specified misdemeanors (see below) (CGS § 29-28, as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, and PA 23-130, § 1; CGS § 29-36f, as amended

by PA 23-53, § 30, and PA 23-89, § 5; and CGS § 53a-217c, as amended by PA 23-53, § 32, and PA 23-89, § 9).

As an exception to the prohibition in item 3 above, the law allows police officers who were voluntarily admitted to a psychiatric hospital for psychiatric treatment and whose work weapons or ammunition were returned to use those work weapons and ammunition.

The disqualifying misdemeanors are convictions of drug possession on or after October 1, 2015 (CGS § 21a-279(c)), offenses designated as family violence crimes, and any of the following within the preceding 20 years:

1. criminally negligent homicide (excluding deaths caused by motor vehicles) (CGS § 53a-58);
2. third-degree assault (CGS § 53a-61);
3. third-degree assault of an elderly, blind, disabled, or pregnant person or person with intellectual disability (CGS § 53a-61a);
4. second-degree threatening (CGS § 53a-62);
5. first-degree reckless endangerment (CGS § 53a-63);
6. second-degree unlawful restraint (CGS § 53a-96);
7. first-degree riot (CGS § 53a-175);
8. second-degree riot (CGS § 53a-176);
9. inciting to riot (CGS § 53a-178); and
10. second-degree stalking (CGS § 53a-181d).

Minimum Age for Possessing Handguns or Getting Credentials. State law does not explicitly set a minimum age for possessing handguns. But a number of laws impose limitations on those under age 21. The law requires applicants for a gun permit or eligibility certificate to be at least age 21 (CGS § 29-28(b)(10), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, and PA 23-130, § 1; and CGS § 29-36f(a), as amended by PA 23-53, § 30, and PA 23-89, § 5). Also, it prohibits transferring handguns to people under age 21, except temporarily at a target shooting or firing range, if otherwise permitted by law and such use is under the immediate supervision of a person eligible to possess handguns. A violation is a class C felony, with a two-year mandatory minimum sentence, and a minimum $5,000 fine unless the court states on the record why it remits or reduces it. Additionally, any handgun found in the possession of any person in violation of this law must be forfeited (CGS § 29-34(b) & (c)).

Handgun Sale/Transfer Procedures

All handgun sales and transfers, whether by licensed dealers or unlicensed persons, must conform to specified state procedures, except those (1) between federally licensed gun dealers, importers, and manufacturers or (2) involving antique handguns (CGS § 29-33(g) & (h), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6). The law also allows peace officers, parole officers, or federal marshals to purchase or receive a handgun without a permit or eligibility certificate (CGS § 29-33(b), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6).

Under the procedures, buyers must complete a DESPP firearms purchase application. DESPP must conduct a national instant criminal background check on applicants and make a reasonable effort to determine whether there is any reason the applicant may be disqualified from possessing a handgun (CGS § 29-33(c), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6). The commissioner must then either deny the transaction or approve it by issuing an authorization number for it. If denied, the commissioner must notify the municipality that there is a reason that prohibits the person from possessing a handgun.

Sellers or transferors must, among other things:

1. ensure that they know the person to whom they are providing the firearm or get appropriate identification (a driver's license, Connecticut-issued identification card, or passport);
2. document the transaction with State Police and appropriate local officials within 48 hours; and
3. keep the transaction records for law enforcement inspection (application for at least 20 years and receipt for at least five years).

When a buyer takes possession of the handgun, he or she must sign a receipt for it, providing (1) his or her name and address; (2) the firearm make, model, manufacturer's number, caliber, and general description; (3) the transfer date and authorization number; and (4) his or her permit or eligibility certificate number, if any (CGS § 29-33(e), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6).

The law prohibits handgun transfers in violation of its procedures or to people who (1) cannot legally possess handguns under state law or (2) do not have the appropriate credentials to obtain them (CGS § 29-33(a) & (b), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6). Any such illegal transfer is a class C felony with a two-year mandatory minimum sentence and a minimum $5,000 fine unless the court states on the record why it remits or reduces it. It is a class B felony if the person transferring the firearm knows that it is stolen or that the manufacturer's number or

serial number has been removed, defaced, altered, or obliterated. Such a transfer also carries a three-year mandatory minimum sentence and a minimum $10,000 fine unless the court states on the record why it remits or reduces it. Any handgun found in the possession of any person in violation of these provisions must be forfeited (CGS § 29-33(j), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6).

Suspended Prosecution

The law allows the court to suspend prosecution of any violation in selling, delivering, or transferring a handgun if it determines the person charged with the violation will probably not offend in the future and has not previously been convicted of or had prosecution suspended for this type of violation (CGS § 29-33(j), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6). Anyone for whom prosecution is suspended must agree to the tolling of any statute of limitations to the violation and waive his or her right to a speedy trial. A person whose prosecution is suspended is supervised under specified conditions for up to two years and has his or her charges dismissed upon satisfactory completion of the required term.

Long Guns

Rifles and shotguns are referred to as long guns. A rifle is a weapon designed to be fired from the shoulder using a cartridge to fire a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger. A shotgun is a weapon designed to be fired from the shoulder using a shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shots or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger (CGS § 53a-3(16) & (17), as amended by PA 23-53, § 36).

Permit or Eligibility Certificate Required to Buy or Get Long Guns

With certain exceptions (see below), anyone acquiring a long gun in Connecticut must present a valid long gun eligibility certificate, handgun eligibility certificate, handgun permit, or gun dealer's permit (CGS § 29-37a(c), as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8).

DESPP issues the long gun eligibility certificate. Applicants must complete a DESPP-approved firearm safety and use course meeting specified criteria, pass state and national criminal history record checks, and meet other criteria discussed below (CGS § 29-37p, as amended by PA 23-53, § 28, and PA 23-89, § 6; and CGS § 29-37q; see *People Barred From Possessing Long Guns* below).

The fee to get or renew the long gun eligibility certificate is $35. The certificate is valid for five years (CGS § 29-37r, as amended by PA 23-73, § 3).

The certificate holder's name and address are subject to similar confidentiality provisions as apply to the handgun credentials discussed above (CGS § 29-37q(d)). Also, similar to the credentials discussed above:

1. DESPP must revoke a long gun eligibility certificate upon any occurrence that would disqualify the certificate holder (CGS § 29-37s(a)),
2. anyone who fails to surrender their certificate within five days of being notified of revocation is guilty of a class A misdemeanor (CGS § 29-37s(b)), and
3. certificate holders may appeal any revocation to the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners (CGS § 29-32b).

People Barred From Possessing Long Guns

Generally, the same categories of people who are barred from possessing handguns or obtaining the required credentials (see above) are barred from possessing long guns or obtaining a long gun eligibility certificate. The minimum age to obtain the long gun certificate is 18, rather than 21 as for handgun credentials (CGS § 29-37p, as amended by PA 23-53, § 28, and PA 23-89, § 6).

Unlike for handguns, it is not a crime under state law for undocumented noncitizens to possess long guns (but these individuals are barred from obtaining a long gun certificate or other gun credentials needed to possess long guns). Also, while the list of disqualifying misdemeanors is the same for possessing long guns or handguns, the prohibition for long guns generally applies to convictions for offenses occurring on or after October 1, 2013 (CGS § 53a-217, as amended by PA 23-53, § 31, and PA 23-89, § 8). For handguns, the prohibition generally applies to such convictions for offenses occurring during the prior 20 years (CGS § 53a-217c, as amended by PA 23-53, § 32, and PA 23-89, § 9).

A similar criminal penalty applies to illegal possession of a long gun as for handguns. For long guns, this crime is a class C felony with a two-year and one-day mandatory minimum prison term, and there is also a minimum $5,000 fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it (CGS § 53a-217(b), as amended by PA 23-53, § 31, and PA 23-89, § 8).

Minimum Age for Possessing Long Guns or Getting Credentials

As with handguns, state law does not explicitly set a minimum age for possessing long guns. But the law bars gun dealers from selling, delivering, or transferring long guns to anyone under age 18. With some exceptions, the law also bars anyone from selling, delivering, or otherwise transferring to anyone under age 21 semiautomatic centerfire rifles that have or can accept magazines that can hold more than five rounds of ammunition. This stricter limitation does not apply to the transfer of

these firearms to the following for use in the discharge of their duties: (1) employees or members of local police departments, DESPP, or DOC or (2) state or U.S. Armed Forces members (CGS § 29-37a(b), as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8).

A violation of either prohibition above is a class D felony, except it is a class B felony if the seller knew that the firearm was stolen or that its serial number had been defaced. The court may, in some circumstances, suspend prosecution for a first minor violation (CGS § 29-37a(i) & (j), as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8).

The law also sets an age requirement for hunting licenses. A junior firearms hunting license may be issued to a child between ages 12 and 16 (CGS § 26-27a). (Federal law prohibits FFLs from selling or transferring long guns to people under age 18. But it does not address sales or transfers by non-licensees or possession by minors (18 U.S.C. § 922(b) and 27 C.F.R. § 478.99(b)(1)).

Long Gun Sales and Transfer Procedures

As with handguns, long gun sales and transfers, whether by licensed dealers or unlicensed persons, must conform to specified state procedures, with certain exceptions (see below). The procedures differ in some respects for gun dealers versus other sellers.

Sales and Transfers by Gun Dealers. With some exceptions, when gun dealers sell or transfer long guns, the transactions must conform to statutory procedures, the essential elements of which are similar to those governing handgun sales and transfers (see above). As is the case with handguns, (1) the dealer must document the transaction with DESPP and maintain copies of the record, (2) the buyer must undergo a national instant criminal background check, and (3) DESPP must authorize or deny the sale or transfer. The long gun must be unloaded and securely packaged when transferred. Unlike handguns, there is no explicit requirement for the dealer to know the buyer or obtain valid identification (CGS § 29-37a(d), as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8).

Sales and Transfers by Private Sellers. The law generally requires nondealers, before transferring, selling, or delivering a long gun to anyone, to either (1) get a DESPP authorization number for the transaction or (2) ask a gun dealer to contact DESPP on his or her behalf and obtain a DESPP authorization number (CGS § 29-37a(e), as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8). However, a DESPP policy change enacted in September 2023 effectively requires all private firearm sales and transfers, including long guns, to be facilitated through an FFL. (DESPP made this policy change at the FBI's direction because the FBI does not allow a national instant criminal background check for private transactions.)

The FFL may charge for the service. The requestor must provide specified identifying information about the prospective transferee, and the prospective transferee must also show the dealer his or her state-issued gun credential. If DESPP determines that the prospective transferee is eligible to receive the firearm, the prospective transferor may sell, deliver, or transfer it; otherwise, he or she cannot do so.

Either the transferor or transferee must provide the following information:

1. the transferor's name, address, and gun permit or certificate number, if any;
2. the transferee's name, address, date and place of birth, and gun permit or certificate number;
3. the sale, delivery, or transfer date;
4. the caliber, make, model, and serial number and a general description of the gun; and
5. the transaction authorization number.

The seller must transmit one copy of the sales receipt to DESPP and one to the transferee's police chief (or if none, the municipality's chief executive officer, or the appropriate resident state trooper or state police officer designated by the chief executive officer), or when applicable, the police chief of a federally recognized Native American tribe, within 24 hours of the sale or transfer, and maintain one copy for at least five years (CGS § 29-37a(f), as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8).

Exemptions. By law, the above procedures for long gun sales do not apply to sales or transfers (1) to FFLs or (2) between such licensees. The law also exempts (1) curios or relics transferred to or between federally licensed firearm collectors or (2) antique firearms (CGS § 29-37a(h), as amended by PA 23-53, § 31, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8).

The law additionally exempts several officials from the long gun credentialing requirements and long gun sale-related requirements. Specifically, the exemption applies to sales or transfers to the following:

1. sworn and certified police (local or state) and correction officers,
2. Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) inspectors or chief inspectors,
3. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) salaried inspectors the DMV commissioner designates,

4. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) conservation or special conservation officers, and

5. locally appointed constables certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council who perform criminal law enforcement duties.

To be exempt, the official must provide a letter on the letterhead of the pertinent entity or agency authorizing the purchase. The letter must state that (1) the individual will use the weapon in the discharge of his or her official duties and (2) a records check shows that he or she has not been convicted of a family violence crime.

Finally, the law exempts military members and the following agencies and entities from the above requirements, without requiring that they submit such a letter: DESPP, DEEP, DOC, DMV, DCJ, local police departments, the state or U.S. Armed Forces, and nuclear power plants. For nuclear plants, the exemption applies when the long guns are for providing security at the facility, or for any contractor or subcontractor providing such security (CGS § 29-37a(h), as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8).

Penalty. Violating the above long gun sale and transfer requirements is generally a class D felony. It is a class B felony if the person transferring the firearm knows that it is stolen or that the manufacturer's number or serial number has been defaced. The court may, in some circumstances, suspend prosecution for a first minor violation (CGS § 29-37a(i) & (j), as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8).

Sawed-Off Shotguns

It is a class D felony to own or possess sawed-off shotguns, defined as a shotgun with a barrel of less than 18 inches or an overall length of less than 26 inches (CGS § 53a-211). The ban does not apply to anyone otherwise permitted by state or federal law to own these firearms. (People may legally possess sawed-off shotguns under federal law if they obtain a federal tax stamp to possess them.)

Ammunition

State law generally requires anyone buying ammunition or ammunition magazines to have an ammunition certificate or a state-issued gun credential and be at least age 18 (CGS § 29-38m, as amended by PA 23-53, § 14). It defines (1) "ammunition" as a loaded cartridge, consisting of a primed case, propellant, or projectile, designed for use in any firearm and (2) "magazine" as a firearm magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that accepts ammunition (CGS § 29-38m(a), as amended by PA 23-53, § 14).

Ammunition Certificate

The law generally prohibits the sale of ammunition or ammunition magazines to anyone unless the buyer presents to the seller:

1. a gun permit, gun dealer permit, or long gun or handgun eligibility certificate or
2. an ammunition certificate and a driver's license, passport, or other valid government-issued identification that contains his or her photograph and date of birth (CGS § 29-38m(c), as amended by PA 23-53, § 14).

Any violation is a class D felony (CGS § 29-38m(e), as amended by PA 23-53, § 14).

An applicant must ask the DESPP commissioner to issue the certificate and to conduct a state criminal history record check, using only the person's name and date of birth (CGS § 29-38n(a)).

After conducting the check, the commissioner must issue the certificate unless he determines, based on the results, that the person would be ineligible to get a long gun eligibility certificate (e.g., failure to complete a state-approved firearms safety course, a felony conviction, or subject to a restraining order regarding the use or threatened use of physical force). To be ineligible for an ammunition certificate based on a misdemeanor conviction, the conviction must be for a violation committed on or after July 1, 2013 (CGS § 29-38n(b)).

The certificate must contain an identification number and the certificate holder's name, address, date of birth, and signature (CGS § 29-38n(c)).

The fee to get or renew the ammunition certificate, like the handgun or long gun eligibility certificate, is $35, and the certificate is valid for five years. The law stipulates that this fee is in addition to fees for the background check (CGS § 29-38o(a)).

Exemptions. These restrictions and requirements do not apply to sales to:

1. DESPP, DOC, DMV, DEEP, DCJ, police departments, and the state of U.S. military or naval forces;
2. a sworn and duly certified member of an organized police department, the State Police, DCJ inspectors, DMV commissioner-designated inspectors, DEEP commissioner- designated conservation officers, and locally appointed constables certified by POST who perform criminal law enforcement duties;
3. a member of the state or U.S. military or naval forces;

4. a nuclear facility licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or its contractors or subcontractors for the purpose of providing security services at the facility; or

5. a federally licensed firearms manufacturer, importer, dealer, or collector (CGS § 29-38m(d), as amended by PA 23-53, § 14).

Large Capacity Magazine (LCM)

With exceptions, the law makes it a class D felony to keep, offer, or expose LCMs for sale; transfer LCMs; or buy, distribute, or bring them into Connecticut (CGS § 53-202w(b), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 18 & 27, and PA 23-203, § 3).

A "large capacity magazine" is any firearm magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that can hold, or can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of ammunition. It excludes:

1. feeding devices permanently altered so that they cannot hold more than 10 rounds,

2. .22 caliber tube ammunition feeding devices,

3. tubular magazines contained in a lever-action firearm, and

4. permanently inoperable magazines (CGS § 53-202w(a), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 18 & 27, and PA 23-203, § 3).

Exemptions From the LCM Ban. In addition to the same governmental entities and individuals that are exempt from the ammunition requirements (see above), the following may also possess, purchase, or import LCMs:

1. anyone who is sworn and acting as police on behalf of an armored car service in the discharge of his or her official duties, and

2. in-state manufacturers of LCMs that manufacture or transport them in Connecticut to sell (a) to the above-mentioned exempt persons and entities or (b) out-of-state.

The following may also possess LCMs:

1. anyone who declared possession of the magazine;

2. executors or administrators of an estate that includes legally declared LCMs, which are disposed of as authorized by the probate court, if the disposition is otherwise permitted;

3. gun dealers; or

4. gunsmiths employed by gun dealers, who receive lawfully possessed LCMs for servicing or repair (CGS § 53-202w(e), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 18 & 27, and PA 23-203, § 3).

The law generally prohibits transfers of LCMs, but it allows the transfer of (1) declared LCMs by bequest or intestate succession, (2) LCMs to DESPP or local police departments, and (3) LCMs to gun dealers (CGS § 53-202w(f), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 18 & 27, and PA 23-203, § 3).

Prohibition and Penalty. The law, with exceptions, makes it a crime to possess an undeclared LCM. Anyone who possesses an undeclared LCM is guilty of a (1) class D felony for violators who are ineligible to possess firearms and (2) class A misdemeanor for those who are eligible (CGS § 53-202w(c), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 18 & 27, and PA 23-203, § 3).

The court may, in some circumstances, suspend prosecution and order any diversionary program available to the defendant (CGS § 53-202w(g), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 18 & 27, and PA 23-203, § 3).

Declaring Possession of LCMs. The law allowed people who possessed LCMs before January 1, 2014, to keep them if they applied to declare them to the DESPP commissioner (CGS § 53-202x(a), as amended by PA 23-203, § 2). To "lawfully possess" means that a person has (1) actual and lawful possession or (2) constructive possession under a lawful purchase of a firearm that contains an LCM that was transacted before April 4, 2013, even if the firearm was delivered after that date (CGS § 53-202w(a), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 18 & 27, and PA 23-203, § 3).

The law generally makes confidential the names and addresses of the people who declared LCM possession. The information is disclosable to (1) law enforcement agencies and U.S. probation officers to carry out their duties and (2) the DMHAS commissioner to carry out statutory duties pertaining to certain gun laws (CGS § 53-202x(c), as amended by PA 23-203, § 2).

Restrictions on Declared LCMs. The law limits where a person can possess a declared LCM. The person may possess it only:

1. at his or her residence;
2. at his or her business place or other property he or she owns, provided the LCM does not contain more than 10 bullets;
3. at a target range of a public or private club or organization organized to practice target shooting;
4. at a target range that holds a regulatory or business license for practicing target shooting;

5. at a licensed shooting club;

6. while transporting the LCM between any of the above-mentioned places or to a gun dealer, provided the LCM contains no more than 10 bullets and is transported in compliance with the law as it applies to transporting assault weapons; or

7. under a valid handgun permit, provided the LCM (a) is in a handgun lawfully possessed by the person before April 4, 2013; (b) does not extend more than one inch below the bottom of the pistol grip; and (c) contains no more than 10 bullets (CGS § 53-202x(f), as amended by PA 23-203, § 2).

A violation of the restrictions on the possession of declared LCMs is a class C misdemeanor (CGS § 53-202x(g), as amended by PA 23-203, § 2).

Nonresidents Who Move to Connecticut With LCMs. Anyone, except a member of the state or U.S. Armed Forces (servicemembers), who moves into Connecticut in lawful possession of an LCM has 90 days to either permanently disable it, sell it to a gun dealer, or take it out of state. Servicemembers transferred to Connecticut after January 1, 2024, in lawful possession of an LCM may declare possession to DESPP within 90 days after their arrival (CGS § 53-202x(d), as amended by PA 23-203, § 2).

Dealer Responsibilities Regarding Transferred LCMs. The law requires gun dealers to whom an LCM is transferred to execute a certificate of transfer at the time of delivery (CGS § 53-202x(e), as amended by PA 23-203, § 2).

For transfers, the dealer must mail or deliver the transfer certificates to DESPP. The certificate of transfer must contain:

1. the LCM sale or transfer date;

2. the gun dealer and transferor's name and address and their Social Security or driver's license numbers, if applicable;

3. the gun dealer's FFL number; and

4. a description of the LCM.

The gun dealer must present his or her federal firearms license and seller's permit to the seller or transferor of the LCM for inspection at the time of the purchase or transfer. The commissioner must maintain a file of all certificates of transfer at his central office.

Armor Piercing Bullets

With some exceptions, it is a class A misdemeanor, or a class D felony for subsequent violations, to knowingly give to anyone; distribute; transport; bring into the state; or keep, offer, or expose for sale any armor-piercing .50 caliber bullets or incendiary .50 caliber bullets (CGS § 53-202*l*(b), as amended by PA 23-53, § 17). It is also a class D felony to knowingly transport or carry a firearm with an armor piercing bullet or incendiary .50 caliber bullet loaded (CGS § 53-202*l*(c), as amended by PA 23-53, § 17). In some circumstances, the court may suspend prosecution for a first minor violation (CGS § 53-202*l*(e), as amended by PA 23-53, § 17).

"Armor-piercing bullets" are any bullets that:

1. are .50 caliber designed, held out by the manufacturer or distributor, or generally recognized as having the specialized capability to penetrate armor or bulletproof glass or
2. can be fired from a handgun of any caliber, that (a) have projectile or projectile cores made entirely from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium, excluding other trace substances or (b) are fully jacketed with a jacket weight of more than 25% of the projectile's total weight, larger than .22 caliber, and designed and intended for use in a firearm (CGS § 53-202*l*(a), as amended by PA 23-53, § 17).

A bullet does not qualify as armor-piercing if it:

1. has projectile cores composed of soft material such as lead or zinc or their alloys,
2. has frangible projectiles designed primarily for sporting purposes,
3. has projectiles or projectile cores that the U. S. attorney general finds to be primarily intended for sporting or industrial purposes, or
4. does not meet federal law's definition of armor-piercing ammunition.

The law specifies that an armor-piercing bullet does not include a shotgun shell.

"Incendiary .50 caliber bullets" are .50 caliber bullets designed, held out by the manufacturer or distributor, or generally recognized as having a specialized capability to ignite upon impact.

Exemptions. Under the law, the prohibitions on armor-piercing or incendiary ammunition do not apply to:

1. sales to DESPP, DOC, police departments, or the state or U.S. military or naval forces for use in the discharge of their official duties;
2. a sworn and duly certified DESPP member or a police department when carrying such bullets;

3. disposition by an estate executor or administrator, as authorized by the probate court; or

4. transfer by bequest or intestate succession (CGS § 53-202*l*(d), as amended by PA 23-53, § 17).

Ammunition Transfer by Ineligible People. As with firearms, the law requires owners to surrender their ammunition to DESPP or transfer it to someone eligible after the occurrence of any event that makes them ineligible to possess handguns or other firearms. People who become ineligible because they are the subject of a restraining or protective order may transfer the firearms only to licensed gun dealers (CGS § 29-36k).

Assault Weapons

Generally, state law prohibits anyone from having or selling an assault weapon. Specifically, and with minor exceptions, no one in Connecticut may:

1. give, distribute, transport, import, expose, keep, or sell an assault weapon (CGS § 53-202b) or

2. possess an assault weapon, unless he or she lawfully owned it before the applicable ban took effect and obtained a certificate of possession from DESPP for it (i.e., registered it) (CGS § 53-202c, as amended by PA 23-53, § 24; and CGS § 53-202d, as amended by PA 23-53, § 25).

Beginning June 6, 2023, PA 23-53, §§ 15, 23-26 & 49, expanded the types of assault weapons banned to include additional firearms, which the act designated as "2023 assault weapons."

Definition

By law, an "assault weapon" is any selective-fire firearm capable of fully automatic, semiautomatic, or burst fire or any parts designed or intended to convert a firearm into an assault weapon or from which an assault weapon may be rapidly assembled if possessed or under the control of the same person. It also includes the specified semiautomatic firearms in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Statutorily Banned Semiautomatic Firearms

Algimec Agmi	Fabrique Nationale FN/FAL, FN/LAR, and FN/FNC	Scarab Skorpion
Armalite AR-180	FAMAS MAS 223	SIG 57 AMT and 500 series
Australian Automatic Arms SAP Pistol	Feather AT-9 and Mini-AT	Spectre Auto Carbine and Auto Pistol
Auto-Ordnance Thompson type	Federal XC-900 and XC-450	Springfield Armory BM59, SAR-48, and G-3

Avtomat Kalashnikov AK-47 type	Franchi SPAS-12 and LAW-12	Sterling MK-6 and MK-7
Barrett Light-Fifty model 82A1	Galil AR and ARM	Steyr AUG
Beretta AR-70	Goncz High-Tech Carbine and High-Tech Long Pistol	Street Sweeper and Striker 12 revolving cylinder shotguns
Bushmaster Auto Rifle and Auto Pistol	Heckler & Koch HK-91, HK-93, HK-94, and SP-89	USAS-12
Calico models M-900, M-950, and 100-P	Holmes MP-83	UZI Carbine, Mini-Carbine, and Pistol
Chartered Industries of Singapore SR-88	Intratec TEC-9 and Scorpion	Weaver Arms Nighthawk
Colt AR-15 and Sporter	Iver Johnson Enforcer model 3000	Wilkinson "Linda" Pistol
Daewoo K-1, K-2, Max-1, and Max-2	MAC-10, MAC-11, and MAC-11 Carbine type	
Encom MK-IV, MP-9, and MP-45	Ruger Mini-14/5F folding stock model only	

The law also bans the following semiautomatic centerfire rifles and pistols, or copies or duplicates with their capability in production on or before April 4, 2013 (see Tables 2 and 3 below).

Table 2: Semiautomatic Centerfire Rifles Banned by Name

AK-47 and -74	MAK90
AKM	MISR
AKS-74U	NHM90 and NHM91
AR-10 and -15	Norinco 56, 56S, 84S, and 86S
ARM	Olympic Arms AR-15, A1, CAR, PCR, K3B, K30R, K16, K48, K8, and K9 Rifles
Armalite M15	Poly Technologies AKS and AK47
Barrett M107A1 and REC7	Remington Tactical Rifle Model 7615
Beretta Storm	Rock River Arms LAR-15 and LAR-47
Bushmaster Carbon 15, XM15, ACR Rifles, and MOE Rifles	SA 85 and SA 93

Table 2 (continued)

Calico Liberty 50, 50 Tactical, 100, 100 Tactical, I, I Tactical, II, and II Tactical Rifles	SAR-8, SAR-4800, and SR9
Colt Match Target Rifles	SIG Sauer 551-A1, 556, 516, 716, and M400 Rifles
Daewoo AR 100 and AR 110C	SLG 95
Doublestar AR Rifles	SLR 95 and 96

DPMS Tactical Rifles	Smith and Wesson M&P15 Rifles
Fabrique Nationale/FN 308 Match and L1A1 Sporter	TNW M230 and M2HB
Galil and Galil Sporter	Valmet M62S, M71S, and M78S
Hi-Point Carbine Rifles	Vector Arms AK-47 and UZI
HK USC	VEPR
HK-PSG-1	WASR-10
IZHMASH Saiga AK	Wilkinson Arms Linda Carbine
Kel-Tec Sub-2000, SU Rifles, and RFB	WUM
MAADI AK47	

Table 3: Semiautomatic Pistols Banned by Name

American Spirit AR-15	Intratec TEC-DC9 and AB-10
Bushmaster Carbon 15	IO Inc. Hellpup AK-47
Calico Liberty III and III Tactical Pistols	I.O. Inc. PPS-43C
Chiappa Firearms Mfour-22	Kel-Tec PLR-16 Pistol
Centurion 39 AK	Masterpiece Arms MPA Pistols
Colefire Magnum	Mini-Draco AK-47
Doublestar Corporation AR	Olympic Arms AR-15
DPMS AR-15	Rock River Arms LAR 15
Draco AK-47	Sig Sauer P516 and P556 pistols
DSA SA58 PKP FAL	Thompson TA5 pistols
German Sport 522 PK	Velocity Arms VMA Pistols
HCR AK-47	Yugo Krebs Krink

The law also classifies the following as an "assault weapon:"

1. any IZHMASH Saiga 12 shotguns or copies or duplicates with their capability in production on or before April 4, 2013;

2. a semiautomatic pistol or semiautomatic centerfire rifle that has a fixed magazine that can hold more than 10 rounds;

3. a semiautomatic centerfire rifle shorter than 30 inches;
4. a semiautomatic shotgun that can accept a detachable magazine (a magazine can be removed without disassembling the firearm);
5. a semiautomatic shotgun that has both (a) a folding or telescoping stock and (b) a grip or stock that allows someone to hold it with more than just the trigger finger directly below the firing action (such as a pistol grip or thumbhole stock);
6. a shotgun with a revolving cylinder; and
7. rimfire weapons that met the two-feature test under the law prior to PA 13-3 (CGS § 53-202a, as amended by PA 23-53, § 23).

The definition of an assault weapon also includes any semiautomatic centerfire rifle that can accept a detachable magazine and has at least one of the following features:

1. a folding or telescoping stock,
2. a grip or stock that allows someone to hold it with more than just the trigger finger directly below the firing action (such as a pistol grip or thumbhole stock),
3. a forward pistol grip,
4. a flash suppressor, or
5. a grenade launcher or flare launcher.

The definition of an assault weapon also includes any semiautomatic pistol that can accept a detachable magazine and has at least one of the following features:

1. the ability to accept a detachable ammunition magazine that attaches at a location outside of the pistol grip;
2. a threaded barrel capable of accepting a flash suppressor, forward pistol grip, or silencer;
3. a barrel shroud that allows the shooter to fire the firearm without being burned, except a slide that encloses the barrel; or
4. a second hand grip.

2023 Assault Weapons

PA 23-53, § 23, expanded the ban on assault weapons to include weapons it called a "2023 assault weapon." This generally includes any semiautomatic firearm, other than a pistol, revolver,

rifle, or shotgun, regardless of the date the firearm was produced or whether it was already specifically banned, if it has at least one of the following:

1. a grip or stock that allows someone to hold it with more than just the trigger finger directly below the firing action;
2. an ability to accept a detachable ammunition magazine that attaches at a location outside of the pistol grip;
3. a fixed magazine that can accept more than 10 rounds;
4. a flash suppressor or silencer, or a threaded barrel capable of accepting one;
5. a barrel shroud that allows the shooter to fire the firearm without being burned, except a slide that encloses the barrel;
6. a second hand grip; or
7. an arm brace or other stabilizing brace that allows the firearm to be fired from the shoulder, with or without an arm strap.

Additionally, the act banned a combination of parts designed or intended to convert a firearm into an assault weapon, as described above as a "2023 assault weapon," or any combination of parts from which an assault weapon, as described above as a "2023 assault weapon" may be assembled if the same person possessed and controlled those parts.

PA 23-53, § 49, repealed a prior exemption for certain semiautomatic firearms that were legally manufactured before September 13, 1994, that were not listed by name under the 1994 assault weapons ban but were instead defined by their features. Thus, these firearms that previously qualified under the exemptions are now considered assault weapons.

Exclusion

The law excludes from the definition of an assault weapon, any parts or combination of parts of an assault weapon, that are not assembled as an assault weapon, when possessed for purposes of servicing or repair, by a licensed gun dealer or gunsmith in the dealer's employ. The definition also does not include any firearm rendered permanently inoperable.

Prohibitions and Penalties

With some exceptions, the law makes it a:

1. class D felony with a mandatory minimum one-year prison term to possess any of the banned weapons, or a class A misdemeanor for a first-time violator that presents proof that

he or she owned the weapon on or before the applicable date that the weapon was banned and otherwise kept the weapon in accordance with the law (CGS § 53-202c(a), as amended by PA 23-53, § 24); and

2. class C felony with a mandatory minimum two-year prison term to give, transport into the state, keep or offer for sale, or distribute banned assault weapons (CGS § 53-202b(a)(1)).

In the case of transfers, sales, or gifts to people under age 18, the court must impose an additional six-year mandatory minimum prison term, in addition and consecutive to the term for the underlying offense (CGS § 53-202b(a)(2)).

Exemptions

Generally, the law allows certain government agencies and officials; estate executors, including people inheriting banned weapons; people participating in Olympic target shooting; and gun manufacturers and dealers to possess assault weapons covered by the ban.

Governmental Entities. Under existing law, specified state agencies, entities, and individuals who lawfully possess an assault weapon to use for official duties do not need a certificate of possession for the weapon. The exempt agencies, entities, and individuals are generally the following:

1. DESPP, DOC, DCJ, DMV, DEEP, police departments, and the state and U.S. Armed Forces;

2. sworn and duly certified members of organized police departments, the State Police, and DOC;

3. DCJ inspectors, DMV commissioner-designated inspectors, DEEP commissioner-appointed conservation officers, and locally appointed constables certified by POST who perform criminal law enforcement duties; and

4. nuclear facilities licensed by the NRC or their contractors and subcontractors.

Estate Executors, Administrators, and Trusts. An executor or administer of an estate, or the trustee of a trust, that includes a registered assault weapon may sell, transfer, and possess the weapon at places specified in law or as the probate court authorizes. These weapons may also be transferred by bequest, by intestate succession, or upon death to a trust or from a trust to a beneficiary who is eligible to possess them (CGS §§ 53-202b(b)(2) & (3) & -202c(g), as amended by PA 23-53, § 24).

Anyone who inherits a registered assault weapon has 90 days to apply to register it anew, sell it to a gun dealer, permanently disable it, or take it out of state (CGS § 53-202d(c), as amended by PA 23-53, § 25).

Olympic Pistols and Other Nonresident Exemptions. Sales of certain semiautomatic weapons, designated by the DESPP commissioner as designed expressly for use in target shooting events at Olympic Games, are also exempted. The buyer must sign a form indicating that he or she will use the pistol primarily for target shooting practice and events (CGS §§ 53-202b(b)(4) & -202c(h), as amended by PA 23-53, § 24).

Under certain circumstances and with certain requirements, the law allows a nonresident who has a certificate of possession to transport certain assault weapons into and through Connecticut to (1) attend any exhibition, display, or educational project or (2) participate in a collegiate, Olympic, or target pistol shooting competition in Connecticut (CGS § 53-202d(f)(7), as amended by PA 23-53, § 25).

Gun Manufacturer and Dealer Exemption. The law allows gun manufacturers to (1) manufacture and transport assault weapons for sale to exempt parties in Connecticut or out-of-state and (2) transport and temporarily transfer them to a third party to perform a part of the manufacturing process (CGS § 53-202i). It allows gun dealers who lawfully possess assault weapons to (1) transport the weapons between dealers or out-of-state, (2) display them at licensed gun shows, or (3) sell them to residents out of state. It also allows gun dealers to take possession of registered weapons or transfer them for servicing or repair to a licensed gunsmith (1) in their employ or (2) under contract to provide gunsmithing services. Manufacturers may also take possession of lawfully possessed assault weapons to service or repair them (CGS § 53-202f, as amended by PA 23-53, § 15).

Dealer, Pawnbroker, and Consignment Shops. The law allows licensed gun dealers, licensed pawnbrokers, and consignment shop operators to transfer possession of a 2023 assault weapon to a person who:

1. legally possessed it before June 6, 2023;
2. placed the weapon in the possession of the dealer, pawnbroker, or operator under an agreement to sell the weapon to a third person; and
3. is eligible to possess it when it is transferred back to the person (CGS § 53-202f, as amended by PA 23-53, § 15).

Relinquishment of Assault Weapon to Law Enforcement Agency

The law allows an individual to arrange in advance to relinquish an assault weapon to a police department or DESPP (CGS § 53-202e).

Certificate of Possession

The law established deadlines that allowed anyone who lawfully possessed an assault weapon prior to the applicable date banning the weapon to apply to DESPP for a certificate of possession for the weapon (in effect, register the weapon) (CGS § 53-202d, as amended by PA 23-53, § 25). The certificate allows him or her to keep the firearm, provided he or she is eligible and otherwise complies with the law.

The law exempts from the registration requirement, law enforcement entities, sworn and duly certified enforcement officers, or nuclear power plants operating in Connecticut and their security contractors who lawfully use assault weapons for official duties. If an officer buys an assault weapon for his or her official duties and then retires or is separated from service, the officer must apply and register the weapon within 90 days (CGS § 53-202d(a)(1)(B) & (2)(B), as amended by PA 23-53, § 25).

The certificate must contain a description of the firearm that identifies it uniquely, including all identification marks; the owner's full name, address, date of birth, and thumbprint; and any other information DESPP deems appropriate (CGS § 53-202d(a)(6), as amended by PA 23-53, § 25).

Servicemembers transferred to Connecticut in lawful possession of an assault weapon may apply to DESPP for a certificate within 90 days of arriving here. Anyone else who moves to Connecticut in lawful possession of an assault weapon has 90 days to permanently disable it, sell it to a gun dealer, or take it out of state (CGS § 53-202d(d), as amended by PA 23-53, § 25).

Anyone who registered an assault weapon banned before April 4, 2013, or previously registered a 2023 assault weapon, is deemed to have registered the weapon and is not required to obtain a separate certificate for it (CGS § 53-202d(a)(3), as amended by PA 23-53, § 25).

Under the law, a certificate holder's name and address is confidential and may be disclosed only to (1) law enforcement agencies, DOC parole officers, and employees of the U.S. Probation Office carrying out their duties and (2) the DMHAS commissioner to carry out certain firearm-related duties (CGS § 53-202d(a)(7), as amended by PA 23-53, § 25).

Federal Reclassification. The law established conditions under which certain individuals may lawfully possess a 2023 assault weapon if the weapon was reclassified for federal purposes as a rifle under amendments to federal regulations (i.e., 27 C.F.R. Parts 478 & 479) (see CGS §§ 53-202c(f) & -202d(a)(4)(C), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 24 & 25).

Standards Governing Registered Assault Weapons

Locations Where Registered Weapon May be Kept. The law allows those who possess a registered assault weapon to possess it only:

1. at his or her home, business place, other property he or she owns, or on someone else's property with the owner's permission;
2. at a target range of a public or private target shooting club;
3. at a licensed target shooting range or club;
4. while attending a firearms exhibition, display, or educational project sponsored or approved by a law enforcement agency or nationally- or state-recognized entity that fosters proficiency in, or promotes education about, firearms; or
5. while transporting the weapon, in compliance with pertinent law, between any of the above places, or to a gun dealer for servicing or repair (CGS § 53-202d(f), as amended by PA 23-53, § 25).

Temporary Transfer and Possession of Assault Weapons. The law allows the temporary possession and transfer of a registered assault weapon for certain out-of-state events, such as shooting competitions, exhibitions, displays or educational projects about firearms sponsored by, conducted under the auspices of, or approved by a law enforcement agency or a nationally or state-recognized entity that fosters proficiency in firearms use or promotes firearms education (CGS § 53-202h).

Transportation and Transfer of Assault Weapons. The law prohibits those transporting an assault weapon between the statutorily authorized places from (1) carrying it loaded and in a concealed manner or (2) knowingly having it in any motor vehicle the person owns, operates, or occupies, unless it is unloaded and in the trunk or in a case or other container that is inaccessible to the driver and passenger (CGS § 53-202d(f), as amended by PA 23-53, § 25). A violation is a class E felony.

Machine Guns

State law defines a "machine gun" as any weapon, loaded or unloaded, that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot automatically more than one projectile by a single function of the trigger without manual reloading. This includes any part or combination of parts designed to assemble, or convert a weapon into, a machine gun (CGS § 53-202(a)).

With limited exceptions, the law requires anyone who owns a machine gun to register it with DESPP within 24 hours of acquiring it and annually thereafter on July 1. The application must show the firearm model and serial number; the applicant's name, address, and occupation; and the person from whom and purpose for which the firearm was acquired (CGS § 53-202(g)).

Manufacturers must maintain a register of machine guns they manufacture or handle. For each such firearm, the register must show the (1) model and serial number; (2) date of manufacture, sale, loan, gift, delivery, or receipt; (3) name, address, and occupation of the transferor or transferee; and (4) purpose for which it was acquired. Manufacturers must make their registers and stock of guns, parts, and supplies available for law enforcement inspection. Violations are punishable by a fine of up to $2,000 (CGS § 53-202(f)).

The law prohibits the use of a machine gun for offensive or aggressive purposes. This purpose is presumed if empty or loaded projectiles are found in the machine gun's immediate vicinity or if the machine gun:

1. is located on premises not owned or rented as a bona fide business or permanent residence by the person who possesses it;
2. is possessed or used by an unnaturalized foreign born person;
3. is possessed or used by anyone convicted of certain violent crimes in state or federal court (such as murder, sexual assault, or 1st- or 2nd-degree assault); or
4. has been adapted to use any caliber projectile and is unregistered (CGS § 53-202(d)).

Using or possessing a machine gun for an offensive or aggressive purpose is punishable by 5 to 10 years in prison, a fine of up to $1,000, or both (CGS § 53-202(c)). Using a machine gun while committing a specified violent crime is punishable by 10 to 20 years in prison (CGS § 53-202(b)).

The law prohibits transferring, selling, or giving machine guns to minors under age 16, including temporarily transferring the weapon to them for use in target shooting or on a firing or shooting range or for any other purpose. A violation is punishable by 5 to 10 years in prison, a fine of up to $1,000, or both (CGS § 53-202(c)).

The above restrictions on machine guns do not apply to (1) the manufacture of machine guns for sale or transfer to the U.S. government, states, territories, or political subdivisions; (2) the possession of machine guns rendered inoperable by welding; or (3) except for the above registration requirement, machine guns acquired, transferred, or possessed under the National Firearms Act (CGS § 53-202(h)).

Restrictions on Carrying Firearms

Prohibition on Carrying a Firearm With Intent to Display It

Starting October 1, 2023, PA 23-53, §§ 1 & 2, generally prohibits anyone from knowingly carrying a firearm with intent to display it. If a person has taken reasonable measures to conceal that he or she is carrying a firearm, then he or she is not deemed to have intended to display the firearm. Additionally, neither a fleeting glimpse of a firearm nor an imprint of a firearm through someone's clothing is a violation (CGS § 29-35, as amended by PA 23-53, § 1, and PA 23-203, § 1).

Among other exceptions, this prohibition does not apply to a person (1) in his or her home or place of business; (2) on land he or she leases, owns, or possesses; or (3) when engaged in a bona fide hunting activity or firearm training.

The same individuals and circumstances exempt from the handgun permit requirement are also exempt from the intent to display prohibition (see *Permit Required to Carry Handguns – Exemptions* above).

Penalty. Anyone violating the intent to display prohibition is guilty of a (1) class B misdemeanor for a first offense and (2) class A misdemeanor for any subsequent offense (CGS § 29-37(c), as amended by PA 23-53, § 2).

The law allows the court to suspend prosecution of a violation of this provision, in addition to any available diversionary programs, under certain conditions. Among other things, the court must determine the violation is not of a serious nature and the person charged will probably not offend in the future.

Carrying Firearms on School Property

It is illegal, with some exceptions, to possess firearms on any public or private elementary or secondary school property or at any school-sponsored event knowing that one is not licensed or privileged to do so. A violation is a class D felony.

The law does not apply to otherwise lawful possession by peace officers carrying out their official duties or anyone:

1. using a firearm in a school-approved school program or school-sponsored activity;
2. who has an agreement with the school allowing the firearm; or
3. crossing school property with an unloaded firearm to gain access to land for hunting or other lawful purposes, as long as the local or regional board of education allows this entry (CGS § 53a-217b).

Carrying Firearms in Legislative Buildings

The law, with minor exceptions, bars people from carrying loaded or unloaded firearms in any building (1) where either house of the General Assembly is located; (2) in which the office of any legislator or legislative officer, employee, or committee is located; or (3) where a legislative committee is holding a public hearing. The law exempts police officers, military personnel on official duty, and veterans serving as honor guards. A violation is a class D felony (CGS § 2-1e(c)).

Carrying Handguns Where Prohibited

By law, a permit to carry handguns does not authorize the permit holder to carry handguns on any property where handguns are otherwise prohibited by law or by the person who owns or exercises control over the property (CGS § 29-28(e), as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, and PA 23-130, § 1).

Board of Firearms Permit Examiners

The Board of Firearms Permit Examiners is a nine-member board that hears appeals of adverse decisions on gun permits and eligibility certificates (including ammunition certificates) (CGS § 29-32b). Anyone may appeal to the board if an official denies, limits, or revokes a gun permit or eligibility certificate or refuses to provide a gun permit application. Within 10 days of receiving an appeal, the board must schedule a hearing. The law prohibits the board from rejecting appeals for lack of formality. A decision of the board may be appealed to the Superior Court under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (CGS § 29-32b(f)).

The board consists of one retired Superior Court judge, appointed by the chief court administrator, and eight members appointed by the governor: two of which must be members of the public and one nominee each from:

1. DESPP;

2. DMHAS;
3. the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association;
4. DEEP;
5. the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association, Inc.; and
6. Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Inc.

At least one of the governor's appointments must be a Connecticut-licensed lawyer, who serves as the chair. Members are not paid but receive reasonable subsistence and travel allowances for performing their duties.

Gun Seller Regulations

In addition to the laws governing sales described above, a few other provisions regulate gun dealers.

Alarm System

Gun dealers must install burglar alarms on their premises where 10 or more firearms are stored and kept for sale. The alarm system must (1) be directly connected to the local police department or monitored by a central station and (2) activate upon unauthorized entry or system interruption (CGS § 29-37d(a)).

The DESPP commissioner may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, impose a civil penalty of up to $100 for a violation of these requirements. Each violation is a separate offense, and, in cases of continuing violations, each day is a separate offense subject to a total penalty of up to $4,900 (CGS § 29-37d(b)).

Employees Selling Firearms

Employees selling firearms in a retail store that sells, but is not principally engaged in selling, firearms must:

1. be at least age 18;
2. have passed state and national criminal history record checks, which indicate they have not been convicted of a felony or any violation that would make them ineligible for a handgun eligibility certificate; and

3. have successfully completed a DESPP-approved course or test in firearm safety and statutory procedures relating to the sale of firearms.

An employer who violates this provision is subject to a civil penalty of up to $10,000 per day for each violation (CGS § 29-37f).

Limits on Where Gun Dealers May Sell Firearms

Gun dealers may sell firearms only in the place described in their permit to sell firearms, and they must display the permit or a copy of it where the firearms will be sold or offered or exposed for sale.

The seller must keep a record of each firearm sold in a book kept for that purpose, in a manner consistent with federal law. The record must be available for inspection upon the request of a sworn member of a local police department or the State Police, any investigator assigned to the statewide firearms trafficking task force, or any federal law enforcement agency investigator. Record inspection by the authorized members and investigators must be for official purposes related to the member's or investigator's employment (CGS § 29-31, as amended by PA 23-53, § 7).

Violators are guilty of a class E felony and any handgun found in the possession of any person in violation of this law must be forfeited (CGS § 29-37(a), as amended by PA 23-53, § 2).

Physical Inventory Reconciliation

Within the first five business days in October, gun dealers must annually do a physical inventory reconciliation that includes comparing their physical inventory of firearms with the acquisition and disposition records that state and federal law require them to maintain. Within five business days after performing the reconciliation, they must attest to the DESPP commissioner that it was performed and that they reported any firearms that were determined to be missing to the attorney general and appropriate local authorities as required by state and federal law (PA 23-53, § 8, codified as CGS § 29-28b(b))

Prohibitions

The law bars permitted gun dealers from (1) furnishing false or fraudulent information in any DESPP application or failing to comply with representations made in any application; (2) transferring a firearm to a person ineligible to receive it, unless the permittee relied in good faith on information DESPP provided in verifying the person's eligibility; and (3) selling, delivering, or otherwise illegally transferring an assault weapon or LCM or failing to maintain accurate records of their sale, delivery, or transfer.

It also prohibits permittees from failing to:

1. maintain a (a) handgun credential and (b) local dealer permit;
2. maintain effective controls against firearm theft, including the required burglar alarm system;
3. acquire an authorization number for a firearm transfer;
4. maintain current and proper acquisition and disposition records the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives requires;
5. post placards or furnish written warnings with specific text about the penalties for the unlawful storage of loaded firearms;
6. provide a trigger lock, gun lock, or gun locking device with each purchase;
7. verify employees' age and criminal background;
8. report any firearm stolen as required by state and federal law; and
9. do the required annual physical inventory reconciliation (PA 23-53, § 8, codified as CGS § 29-28b(a)).

Violations

If there is probable cause to believe that a gun dealer has failed to comply with these prohibitions or their other duties under state law, the DESPP commissioner or relevant law enforcement authority in the municipality where the permittee resides may issue a violation notice. The notice must detail the reasons for issuing it and state the date by which the dealer must cure the violation, which must be at least 30 days after the notice's service date.

If the cure period has expired and the commissioner or relevant law enforcement authority determines the violation continues, he or she may issue a stop sales order. The order is effective when served on the permittee or posted at the permitted premises. The commissioner or relevant law enforcement authority may assess a civil penalty of up to $100 for each day the violation continues. Any dealer who violates a stop sales order is guilty of a class C felony with a two-year mandatory minimum prison sentence and a $5,000 minimum fine, which may not be remitted or reduced unless the court states on the record its reasons for doing so.

Anyone issued a stop sales order may request a hearing before the DESPP commissioner to contest the grounds for the order and any associated civil penalties. The hearing must be held within seven days after the request's receipt in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act. Stop sales orders are effective against any successor entity that (1) has at least one of the same

principals or officers as the business against which it was issued and (2) is engaged in the same or equivalent business (PA 23-53, § 8, codified at CGS § 29-28b(c)).

Civil Orders of Protection and Firearms

Types of Orders

This section applies to the following types of orders issued in a case involving physical force:

1. a civil restraining order (one available to family and household members who are domestic violence victims);
2. a civil protection order (one available to victims of sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking who are not family or household members); and
3. a foreign order of protection (an injunction or order issued in another state) (CGS §§ 46b-15, -15a & -16a).

Gun Permits and Firearms Eligibility Certificates

The law prohibits local officials from issuing temporary gun permits, and the DESPP commissioner from issuing a state gun permit or firearms eligibility certificate, to anyone subject to any of the types of orders mentioned above in a case involving the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force (CGS § 29-28, as amended by PA 23-53, § 32, PA 23-89, § 9, and PA 23-130, § 1; and CGS § 29-36f, as amended by PA 23-53, § 30, and PA 23-89, § 5).

Eligibility to Possess Firearms and Ammunition

By law, in cases involving physical force, a person is ineligible to possess firearms and ammunition (1) when the court issues a civil restraining order or civil protection order against him or her after notice and a hearing; (2) upon receiving notice that an order was issued without a hearing (i.e., an ex parte order); or (3) if he or she is subject to a foreign order of protection (CGS § 29-36k).

Due Process for Ex Parte Orders. By law, the court must order a hearing within seven days after issuing an ex parte order when a civil restraining order application indicates that the respondent (the accused) holds a gun permit, possesses firearms or ammunition, or has a handgun or long gun eligibility certificate or an ammunition certificate.

Process must be served at least three days before the hearing date. If process is not properly served and the applicant requests it, the court must continue the ex parte order and schedule a new hearing. The court may do so up to 14 days from the original hearing date (CGS § 46b-15).

Transfer, Delivery, or Surrender of Firearms and Ammunition

A person must transfer, deliver, or surrender his or her firearms and ammunition immediately, but within 24 hours maximum, after becoming ineligible to possess them because the person is subject to any of the orders described above, including an ex parte order. Such individuals must (1) transfer the firearms and ammunitions to an FFL or (2) deliver or surrender them to the commissioner or to a municipal police department on the DESPP commissioner's behalf (CGS § 29-36k). A violator is guilty of criminal possession of a firearm or ammunition, as applicable (CGS § 29-36k; CGS § 53a-217, as amended by PA 23-53, § 31, and PA 23-89, § 8; and CGS § 53a-217c, as amended by PA 23-53, § 32, and PA 23-89, § 9).

Reinstatement of Revoked Credentials

Under the law, the DESPP commissioner, at the request of a person who was subject to a civil restraining order, civil protection order, or a foreign order of protection and on verification of the order's expiration, must reinstate any gun or ammunition credential revoked as a result of such an order, if the person is otherwise eligible for the credential. Also, DESPP must reinstate a gun or ammunition credential it revoked based on an ex parte order if the order expires and the respondent, who is not otherwise disqualified, notifies DESPP and DESPP verifies the expiration (CGS §§ 29-32, 29-37s, & 29-38p).

Return of Firearms and Ammunition

By law, a person subject to a civil restraining order, civil protection order, or foreign order of protection who has delivered or surrendered any pistol, revolver, or other firearm or ammunition to the DESPP commissioner or a local police department may request the return of the firearm or ammunition when the order expires or is rescinded. The person making the request must provide notification of the order's expiration or rescission to the commissioner or department.

The commissioner or department must review the request within five business days after receiving the request. They must make any firearm or ammunition available for retrieval if they confirm that the order expired or was rescinded and that the requestor (1) is not otherwise disqualified from possessing the firearm or ammunition and (2) was legally entitled to possess the firearm or ammunition when it was delivered or surrendered (CGS § 29-36k).

Firearm Safety Provisions

Locking Devices and Storage Warnings

By law, all firearms sold in Connecticut, other than at wholesale, must be equipped with a reusable locking device constructed of material sufficiently strong to prevent it from being easily disabled.

The lock must also have a mechanism accessible by key or by electronic or other mechanical accessory specific to the device to prevent unauthorized removal (CGS § 29-33(d), as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6).

Another related law requires gun dealers to provide firearm buyers with a reusable trigger lock, gun lock, or appropriate-locking device at the time of sale. They must give buyers the following written warning in block letters at least one inch high and post the warning conspicuously in block letters at least three inches high:

UNLAWFUL STORAGE OF A LOADED FIREARM MAY RESULT IN IMPRISONMENT OR FINE

Each violation by a dealer carries a fine of at least $500 (CGS § 29-37b, as amended by PA 23-53, § 33).

Safe Storage in a Home

The law prohibits anyone from storing or keeping any firearm on any premises under such person's control, unless the person (1) keeps the firearm locked up or in a location that a reasonable person considers to be secure, or (2) carries it on his or her person or close enough so that he or she can readily retrieve it and use the firearm as if such person carried it on his or her person (CGS § 29-37i, as amended by PA 23-53, § 12).

If a person obtains an unlawfully stored firearm and uses it to injure or kill himself or herself or someone else, the weapon's owner is guilty of criminally negligent storage of a firearm, a class D felony, unless the person obtained the firearm through unlawful entry and, if the firearm is stolen, it is reported as such within 72 hours (CGS § 53a-217a, as amended by PA 23-53, § 20). A person who fails to securely store a firearm is strictly liable for damages (i.e., regardless of intent) when a minor (person under age 18) or, a resident of the premises who is ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law or who poses a risk of imminent personal injury to himself or herself or to other individuals, obtains the firearm and causes injury or death of the minor, resident, or any other person (CGS § 52-571g).

Any parent or guardian of a minor who knows that the child possesses a firearm and fails to make reasonable efforts to stop it is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. And, if the child causes the injury or death of someone else with the firearm, the parent or guardian is guilty of a class D felony (CGS § 53-206f).

Safe Storage in a Motor Vehicle

The law generally prohibits storing or keeping a handgun in an unattended motor vehicle unless it is in the trunk, a locked safe, or a locked glove box. A first offense is a class A misdemeanor and a subsequent offense is a class D felony (CGS § 29-38g(a)(1) & (d)). The court may, in some circumstances, suspend prosecution for a first minor violation (CGS § 29-38g(c)).

Under the law, a motor vehicle is "unattended" if no owner, operator, or passenger who is at least age 21 is either inside the vehicle or close enough to prevent unauthorized access. A "trunk" is (1) the fully enclosed and locked main storage or luggage compartment of a motor vehicle that is not accessible from the passenger compartment or (2) a locked toolbox or utility kit attached to a pickup truck bed. It does not include the rear of a pickup truck, except as provided above; the rear of a hatchback, station-wagon-type automobile, or sport utility vehicle; or any compartment that has a window (CGS § 29-38g(a)(2)).

Exemptions. The law's storage requirements do not apply to a handgun issued or possessed by the following entities:

1. police departments, the Department of Revenue Services, DCJ, DESPP, DOC, DMV, and DEEP or
2. state or U.S. military or naval forces.

The requirements also do not apply to a handgun issued to or possessed by the following individuals for use in their official duties or when off-duty:

1. sworn members of a law enforcement unit,
2. DCJ inspectors or chief inspectors,
3. salaried motor vehicle inspectors designated by the DMV commissioner,
4. conservation or special conservation officers appointed by the DEEP commissioner, and
5. POST-certified constables appointed by a municipality's chief executive authority to perform criminal law enforcement duties.

Additionally, the requirements do not apply to a handgun issued to or possessed by a:

1. member of the state or U.S. military or naval forces or
2. nuclear facility licensed by the NRC to provide security services at the facility, or any contractor or subcontractor providing security services at the facility.

For any of the above exemptions, the handgun must be kept or stored in accordance with the issuing or possessing entity's policy for safely keeping or storing a handgun in a motor vehicle (CGS § 29-38g(b)).

Carrying Long Guns in Motor Vehicles. Under the law, long guns must be unloaded when being transported in a vehicle or snowmobile. A violation is a class D misdemeanor (CGS § 53-205, as amended by PA 23-53, § 34). The provisions do not apply to members of the military while on duty or travelling to or from assignments or to enforcement officers, security guards, or other people employed to protect property while in the performance of their duties.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Restoration of Gun Rights

Federal law prohibits anyone who has been "adjudicated as a mental defective" or "committed to a mental institution" from shipping, transporting, receiving, or possessing firearms or ammunition, unless the person's firearm privileges are restored under a federally approved program (18 U.S.C. § 922(d)(4) & (g)(4) and 34 U.S.C. § 40915).

State law contains a court procedure for restoring these privileges lost because of a state adjudication or commitment. The procedure is similar to the federal procedure governing federal adjudications or commitments. Anyone seeking to regain firearm privileges must petition the probate court for relief. The court must grant relief if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that (1) the petitioner will not likely act in a manner dangerous to public safety and (2) granting relief is not contrary to the public interest. The petitioner or DESPP may appeal the decision to the Superior Court (CGS § 45a-100).

Gun Seizure From People Posing Imminent Harm

The law allows the police or a state's attorney or assistant state's attorney, under limited circumstances, to apply to court for a risk protection order (RPO) prohibiting someone age 18 or older and at imminent risk of injuring themselves or someone else from obtaining or possessing firearms, other deadly weapons, or ammunition. As part of this process, the court may also issue a risk warrant for the police to seize these items if the person possesses them.

The law establishes two ways to begin this process. The first is initiated by the police (or a state's attorney or assistant state's attorney) following their investigation, who then apply to court for the RPO and, when applicable, a risk warrant. The second is initiated by qualifying family or household

members or medical professionals applying to court for an RPO investigation. If the order is granted and the police subsequently determine there is probable cause to believe that the person poses an imminent risk, the police apply to court for an RPO and, when applicable, a risk warrant.

In determining grounds and probable cause for issuing an RPO and risk warrant, the judge must consider any recent threat or violent act the person directed at himself or herself or others and recent acts of animal cruelty. In determining whether the threats or acts constitute probable cause to believe a risk of injury is imminent, the judge may consider, among other things, if the person:

1. recklessly used, displayed, or brandished a gun;
2. has a history of using, attempting to use, or threatening to use physical force against people;
3. was ever involuntarily confined to a psychiatric hospital;
4. abused alcohol; and
5. illegally used controlled substances.

If satisfied that the law's standards have been met, the judge must issue the warrant. The judge must hold a hearing within 14 days after issuance of the RPO and warrant, if applicable. The RPO and seizure remain in effect until the person successfully petitions the court to terminate the order and warrant. The person may periodically petition the court to challenge the order and items' seizure starting 180 days after the initial hearing (CGS § 29-38c, as amended by PA 23-89, § 1, PA 24-24, §§ 11 & 12, PA 24-108, § 3, and PA 24-137, § 1).

The law also establishes a separate risk warrant process for children (under age 18) who possess firearms or other deadly weapons and pose an imminent risk of injuring other people. Among other differences to the process described above, the process for minors (1) includes risk warrants to seize firearms, other deadly weapons, or ammunition, but does not include RPOs to prevent children from acquiring or possessing these items (other laws restrict firearm sales to minors) and (2) only applies if the child poses a risk to other people (PA 23-89, § 2, codified as CGS § 29-38q). For more information, see the OLR Public Act Summary for PA 23-89.

Reports of Lost or Stolen Firearms

Lawful owners of any firearm lost or stolen must file a police report within 72 hours after they discover or should have discovered the loss or theft. The report must be made to the local police department for the town in which the loss or theft occurred or, in towns without an organized local police department, the State Police troop having jurisdiction. The receiving department or troop must forward a copy of the report to the DESPP commissioner.

A first-time unintentional failure to report by the deadline is a class A misdemeanor; a subsequent unintentional failure is a class C felony. Any intentional failure to report is a class B felony. The law specifies that a first-time violator does not lose the right to possess a gun permit (CGS § 53-202g, as amended by PA 23-53, § 45).

Deadly Weapon Offender Registry

By law, anyone convicted, or found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect, of a deadly weapon offense (including various firearm-related offenses) and released into the community must register with DESPP within 14 calendar days after being released. The registry information is not a public record for purposes of the Freedom of Information Act. It is disclosable only as authorized by law.

The person must maintain the registration for five years. People required to register must do so within 20 calendar days after each anniversary date of the initial registration date. The court, before accepting a guilty or nolo contendere (no contest) plea for a deadly weapon offense, must inform the person of the registration consequences of the plea and determine that he or she fully understands them.

Failure to register and update one's status as required is a class D felony. It is also a class D felony for a registrant to fail to inform DESPP of a name or address change within five business days (CGS §§ 54-280 to 54-280b, as amended by PA 23-53, § 22).

Bump Stocks

The law generally makes it a class D felony for anyone to sell, transfer, purchase, possess, use, or manufacture a "rate of fire enhancement" (e.g., a bump stock). The law, among other things:

1. exempts licensed firearms manufacturers fulfilling military contracts;
2. provides a 90-day grace period for individuals who move into the state, or military personnel returning from deployments that began on or ran through October 1, 2018, to render their bump stock permanently inoperable, remove it from Connecticut, or surrender it to DESPP;
3. reduces the penalty to a class D misdemeanor for certain first-time offenders who possessed a rate of fire enhancement before July 1, 2019, and have a valid firearms permit or eligibility certificate; and
4. gives the court specific discretion to suspend prosecution for violations not serious in nature.

A "rate of fire enhancement" is any device, component, part, combination of parts, attachment, or accessory that:

1. uses energy from a firearm's recoil to generate a reciprocating action that causes repeated function of the trigger, including a bump stock;

2. repeatedly pulls a firearm's trigger through the use of a crank, lever, or other part, including a trigger crank; or

3. causes a semiautomatic firearm to fire more than one round per operation of the trigger, where the trigger pull and reset constitute a single operation of the trigger, including a binary trigger system (CGS § 53-206g, as amended by PA 23-53, § 19).

Ghost Guns

Connecticut law generally prohibits anyone from (1) completing the manufacture of a firearm without subsequently obtaining and engraving or permanently affixing on it a unique serial number or other identification mark from DESPP or (2) possessing a firearm manufactured in this way (i.e., creating or possessing a "ghost gun") (CGS § 29-36a, as amended by PA 23-53, § 3).

The law also generally prohibits (1) transferring "ghost guns," except to law enforcement and (2) knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence, aiding the manufacture of a firearm for certain people who are prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm.

Among other exceptions, the law does not apply to firearms manufactured (1) by a federally licensed firearm manufacturer or (2) before December 16, 1968, provided they are otherwise lawfully possessed.

Those who are ineligible to possess firearms and violate these ghost gun provisions are guilty of a class C felony with a two-year mandatory minimum prison term and a $5,000 minimum fine unless the court stated on the record its reasons for remitting or reducing the fine. For anyone who is eligible to possess a firearm, the law makes any violation a class C misdemeanor.

Additionally, other laws prohibit anyone from:

1. manufacturing a firearm from polymer plastic that is less detectible by a walk-through metal detector than a security exemplar (i.e., an object used to test and calibrate metal detectors);

2. purchasing, receiving, selling, delivering, or transferring an unfinished frame or lower receiver without an identification mark or unique serial number or satisfying certain other requirements; and

3. possessing an unfinished frame or lower receiver if the person is ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law (CGS §§ 53-206i & -206j).

Violation of these provisions generally have the same penalties as for those ineligible to possess firearms who violate the ghost gun provisions.

The law allows the court, under certain circumstances, to suspend the prosecution of a person accused of committing any of the above prohibited acts.

Gun Shows

By law, a gun show promoter generally must notify the police chief, or if none, the municipality's chief executive officer, of the date, time, duration, and location of a gun show at least 30 days before it starts. The municipal chief executive officer instead may designate the municipality's resident state trooper, or a state police officer from the State Police troop with jurisdiction over the municipality, to receive this notice. This law defines a "gun show" as an event where two or more people offer or exhibit at least 50 guns in total for sale, transfer, or exchange to the public (CGS § 29-37g).

The law generally requires people selling or otherwise transferring any guns at gun shows to contact DESPP to verify the transferee's eligibility and get authorization numbers for the transfer (CGS §§ 29-37g & -36*l*, as amended by PA 23-53, § 10).

Offenses and Penalties

Classification

Table 4 below shows Connecticut's firearm-, firearm accessories-, and ammunition-related offenses and penalties, classified as follows:

1. creation and alteration,
2. transfer and purchase,
3. storage,
4. possession and possession representation,
5. carry,
6. display,
7. use and threat of use, and

8. permitting surrender.

Entries under each classification are listed in numerical order by statute. Each entry has a brief description of the offense, which generally excludes exceptions or affirmative defenses, and a brief summary of the offense's penalty. Offenses with civil liability penalties, without a specified penalty, or for duty violations by those administering the laws are excluded from the table. Several types of collateral consequences, such as revocations of firearm-related permits and professional credentials after a conviction, are also excluded from the table.

Table 4: Firearm-Related Offenses and Penalties

CREATION AND ALTERATION OFFENSES		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
29-36	Alter, remove, or deface a firearm serial number or other mark of identification	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any firearm in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited
29-36a(a), (h) & (i) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 3)	Create a "ghost gun" (i.e., complete the manufacture of a firearm without subsequently (1) obtaining a unique serial number or other identification mark from DESPP and (2) engraving or permanently affixing it to the firearm) and the creator is ineligible to possess a firearm	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any firearm in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-36a(a), (h) & (i) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 3)	Create a "ghost gun" (i.e., complete the manufacture of a firearm without subsequently (1) obtaining a unique serial number or other identification mark from DESPP and (2) engraving or permanently affixing it to the firearm) and the creator is eligible to possess a firearm	Class C misdemeanor+
29-36a(g), (h) & (i) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 3)	Knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence facilitate or aid the manufacture of a firearm and the facilitator or aide is ineligible to possess a firearm	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any firearm in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited +
29-36a(g), (h) & (i) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 3)	Knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence facilitate or aid the manufacture of a firearm and the facilitator or aide is eligible to possess a firearm	Class C misdemeanor+
53-202(f)	Fail to keep a register of machine guns manufactured or handled by the manufacturer or allow law enforcement to inspect the register or guns	Fine up to $2,000
53-206b	Teach anyone to make a firearm knowing or intending it to be unlawfully used in certain violent public disturbances or assemble with people to do so	Class C felony

Table 4 (continued)

CREATION AND ALTERATION OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
53-206g (as amended by PA 23-53, § 19)	Manufacture a "rate of fire enhancement" (e.g., a bump stock)	Class D felony+
53-206i	Manufacture a firearm from polymer plastic that is less detectible by a walk-through metal detector than a security exemplar	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any firearm in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited +
53a-174a	Knowingly make a firearm within a correctional institution while incarcerated	Class B felony
TRANSFER AND PURCHASE OFFENSES		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
26-80b	Provide or sell computer software or services that allows someone to remotely control a firearm to hunt when not physically present	Class A misdemeanor
29-28(a) (as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 4, 5 & 29, PA 23-89, § 4, PA 23-130, § 1, and PA 24-24, § 9); 29-37(a) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 2)	Sell a firearm at retail without a local dealer permit	Class E felony and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited
29-28b (created by PA 23-53, § 8)	Fail to cure a violation for failing to comply with retail firearm sales permit duties	Up to $100 civil penalty per day during which the violation continues
29-28b (created by PA 23-53, § 8)	Sell or transfer a firearm when subject to a stop sales order	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term and $5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
29-31 (as amended by PA 23-53, § 7, and PA 24-24, § 10); 29-37(a) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 2)	Sell a firearm at retail to a person who does not have appropriate identification or fail to display local dealer permit or keep a record book of firearm sales	Class E felony and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited

Table 4 (continued)

TRANSFER AND PURCHASE OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
29-33(a), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6)	Sell or transfer a handgun to certain people who are statutorily prohibited from possessing it	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-33(b), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6)	Buy or obtain a handgun without valid credentials	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-33(c), (e), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6)	Sell, transfer, or a purchase handgun in violation of required procedures	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-33(d), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6)	Sell or transfer a loaded handgun or, other than at wholesale, a handgun without a trigger lock	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-33(i), & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 9, and PA 23-130, §§ 5 & 6)	Sell or transfer a handgun in violation of the statute and knowing that it is stolen or that its serial or other identifying number is defaced	Class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term, $10,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-34(a) & (c)	Provide a false statement or false information in connection with the purchase, sale, or transfer of a handgun	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited
29-34(b) & (c)	Sell or transfer a handgun to anyone under age 21	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited
29-36a(c), (h) & (i) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 3)	Sell or purchase a firearm without a serial number or other identification mark (i.e., a "ghost gun") and the seller or purchaser is ineligible to possess a firearm	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any firearm in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+

Table 4 (continued)

TRANSFER AND PURCHASE OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
29-36a(c), (h) & (i) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 3)	Sell or purchase a firearm without a serial number or other identification mark (i.e., a "ghost gun") and the seller or purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm	Class C misdemeanor+
29-36a(e), (f), (h) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 3)	Transfer a firearm manufactured in violation of the statute to someone other than law enforcement and the transferor is ineligible to possess a firearm	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any firearm in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-36a(e), (f), (h) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 3)	Transfer a firearm manufactured in violation of the statute to someone other than law enforcement and the transferor is eligible to possess a firearm	Class C misdemeanor+
29-37a(b), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8)	Sell or transfer a long gun at retail to anyone under age 18	Class D felony and any long gun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-37a(b), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8)	Sell or transfer a semi-automatic centerfire rifle that accepts a capacity exceeding five rounds to anyone under age 21	Class D felony and any long gun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-37a(c), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8)	Purchase or receive a long gun without valid credentials	Class D felony and any long gun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-37a(d), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8)	Sell or transfer a long gun at retail in violation of required procedures	Class D felony and any long gun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-37a(e), (f), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8)	Sell or transfer a long gun in violation of required procedures where no party to the sale or transfer is a federally licensed firearm manufacturer, importer, or dealer	Class D felony and any long gun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+

Table 4 (continued)

TRANSFER AND PURCHASE OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
29-37a(g), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8)	Sell or transfer a long gun before end of two-week waiting period when the buyer or transferee does not have a gun credential, among other exemptions	Class D felony and any long gun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-37a(i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8)	Sell or transfer a long gun in violation of the statute and knowing that it is stolen or that its serial or other identifying number is defaced	Class B felony and any long gun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-37b(a) & (c) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 33)	Sell a firearm at retail without trigger lock and safety warning	At least $500 fine for each violation
29-37e	Provide a false statement or false information in connection with the purchase, sale, or transfer of a firearm other than a handgun	Class D felony and any firearm in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited
29-37f	Employ minors under age 18 or other unauthorized people to sell firearms in certain retail establishments	Civil penalty of up to $10,000 per day for each violation
29-37j(a) & (c)	Purchase a firearm intending to transfer it to another person the transferor knows or has reason to believe is ineligible to have it (i.e., straw man transactions)	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term and $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, Or, if violator was convicted of a felony within the previous five years, class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term, and $10,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
29-37j(b) & (c)	Solicit, employ, or assist anyone in a straw man transaction when the solicitor, employer, or assister is ineligible to have a firearm	Class D felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term and $3,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, Or, if violator obtains a firearm through such actions, class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, and $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, Or, if violator was convicted of a felony within the previous five years, class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term, and $10,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it

Table 4 (continued)

TRANSFER AND PURCHASE OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
29-38m(b) & (e) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 14)	Sell ammunition or an ammunition magazine to a person under age 18	Class D felony
29-38m(c) & (e) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 14)	Sell ammunition or an ammunition magazine to a person without valid credentials	Class D felony
53-202(c)(2)	Sell or transfer a machine gun to minor under age 16	5 to 10 years imprisonment, up to $1,000 fine, or both
53-202b	Sell or transfer an assault weapon	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term and an additional six-year mandatory minimum if the assault weapon is provided to a person under age 18
53-202l(b) & (e) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 17)	Knowingly sell or transfer armor piercing or incendiary .50 caliber ammunition	Class A misdemeanor for a first violation and class D felony for subsequent violations+
53-202w(b) & (g) (as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 18 & 27, PA 23-203, § 3, and PA 24-24, § 23)	Sell, transfer, or purchase a large capacity magazine	Class D felony+
53-202aa	Knowingly and intentionally cause a firearm (other than a rifle, shotgun, or antique firearm) to come into the possession or control of another person the transferor knows or has reason to believe is ineligible to have it	Class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term and $10,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
53-206c(b) & (e)	Sell or transfer a facsimile firearm	Class B misdemeanor
53-206g (as amended by PA 23-53, § 19)	Sell, transfer, or purchase a "rate of fire enhancement" (e.g., a bump stock)	Class D felony+
53-206j(a) to (e) & (g) to (i)	Purchase, receive, sell, or transfer an unfinished frame or lower receiver without (1) an identification mark or unique serial number or (2) satisfying certain other requirements	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any unfinished frame or lower receiver in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+

Table 4 (continued)

TRANSFER AND PURCHASE OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
53-206j(a) to (e) & (g) to (i)	Sell or transfer an unfinished frame or lower receiver in violation of the statute and knowing that it is stolen or that its serial or other identifying number is defaced	Class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term, $10,000 minimum fine unless the court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any unfinished frame or lower receiver in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
53a-8(b)	Sell or transfer a firearm knowing that the recipient intends to use it illegally	Fine and imprisonment as if transferor were principal offender
53a-174	Knowingly transfer a firearm without authorization into any correctional institution or to an inmate who is outside its premises	Class D felony
STORAGE OFFENSES		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
29-37b (as amended by PA 23-53, § 33)	Fail to display or provide a purchaser with a written storage warning when engaging in the retail sale of firearms	At least $500 fine for each violation
29-37d	Fail to have a burglar alarm system when engaging in the retail sale of firearms	Up to $100 civil penalty per day during which the violation continues with a cap of $4,900
53a-217a (as amended by PA 23-53, § 20)	Fail to fulfill legal requirements for storing or keeping a firearm on premises under the storer's or keeper's control (under 29-37i as amended by PA 23-53, § 12) and another person obtains the firearm and causes a person's injury or death	Class D felony
29-38g	Store or keep a handgun in an unattended vehicle and fail to put it in the vehicle's trunk, a locked safe, or a locked glove box	Class A misdemeanor for a first violation and class D felony for subsequent violations+
POSSESSION AND POSSESSION REPRESENTATION OFFENSES		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
2-1e(c) & (d)	Possess a dischargeable weapon in a legislative chamber or related areas	Class D felony
26-85	Possess a jacklight (i.e., artificial light) to take deer, including when used with certain rifles, shotguns, and ammunition	Forfeit firearm and ammunition plus, for (1) first offense, imprisonment of 30 days to 6 months, fine of $200 to $500, or both, and (2) subsequent offenses, imprisonment up to 364 days#, fine of $200 to $1,000, or both
29-36a(c), (h) & (i) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 3)	Possess a firearm without a serial number or other identification mark (i.e., a "ghost gun") and the possessor is ineligible to possess a firearm	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term; $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it; and any firearm in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+

Table 4 (continued)

POSSESSION AND POSSESSION REPRESENTATION OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
29-36a(c), (h) & (i) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 3)	Possess a firearm without a serial number or other identification mark (i.e., a "ghost gun") and the possessor is eligible to possess a firearm	Class C misdemeanor+
29-36k(a) & (e); 53a-217 (as amended by PA 23-53, § 31, and PA 23-89, § 8); 53a-217c (as amended by PA 23-53, § 32, and PA 23-89, § 9)	Fail to transfer, deliver, or surrender a firearm or ammunition after becoming ineligible to possess it	Class C felony with two-year or two-year and one-day mandatory minimum prison term, and $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
29-36k(b) & (e); 53a-217 (as amended by PA 23-53, § 31, and PA 23-89, § 8); 53a-217c (as amended by PA 23-53, § 32, and PA 23-89, § 9)	Fail to transfer, deliver, or surrender a firearm or ammunition after notice that he or she is subject to a restraining or protective order	Class C felony with two-year or two-year and one-day mandatory minimum prison term, and $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
53-202(b)	Possess a machine gun while committing or attempting to commit certain violent crimes	10 to 20 years imprisonment
53-202(c)(1) & (g)	Possess a machine gun for an offensive or aggressive purpose, which is presumed if someone fails to register a machine gun	5 to 10 years imprisonment, up to $1,000 fine, or both
53-202c (as amended by PA 23-53, § 24)	Possess an assault weapon without a certificate of possession	Class D felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term, except that a first violation is a class A misdemeanor if the person proves that he or she lawfully possessed the weapon before the relevant ban went into effect and is otherwise in compliance with the law
53-202g (as amended by PA 23-53, § 45)	Fail to report lost or stolen firearms	Class A misdemeanor for a first unintentional failure and class C felony for subsequent unintentional failures, or class B felony for any intentional failure
53-202w(c) & (g) (as amended by PA 23-53, §§ 18 & 27, PA 23-203, § 3, and PA 24-24, § 23)	Possess an undeclared large capacity magazine	Class D felony if person is ineligible to possess a firearm or class A misdemeanor if person is eligible to possess a firearm+

Table 4 (continued)

POSSESSION AND POSSESSION REPRESENTATION OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
53-202x(f) & (g) (as amended by PA 23-203, § 2)	Possess a declared large capacity magazine in an unauthorized manner	Class C misdemeanor
53-205 (as amended by PA 23-53, § 34)	Possess a loaded firearm other than a handgun in a vehicle or snowmobile	Class D misdemeanor
53-206f	Fail to make reasonable efforts to halt a minor child's possession of a firearm when he or she is the child's parent or guardian who knows the child possesses the firearm and is ineligible to do so	Class A misdemeanor or class D felony if the child hurts or kills someone with the firearm
53-206g (as amended by PA 23-53, § 19)	Possess a "rate of fire enhancement" (e.g., a bump stock)	Class D felony+
53-206j(f) to (i)	Possess an unfinished frame or lower receiver when ineligible to possess a firearm under the law	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any unfinished frame or lower receiver in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
53a-55a; 53a-35a	Possess or purport to possess a firearm when committing 1st degree manslaughter	Class B felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term and maximum sentence of up to 40 years
53a-56a	Possess or purport to possess a firearm when committing 2nd degree manslaughter	Class C felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-60a	Possess or purport to possess a firearm when committing 2nd degree assault	Class D felony, or class C felony if the crime results in a serious physical injury, with one-year mandatory minimum prison term in either case
53a-60c	Possess or purport to possess a firearm when committing 2nd degree assault and the victim is elderly, blind, physically disabled, pregnant, or a person with intellectual disability	Class D felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-61aa	Possess or purport to possess a firearm when committing 2nd degree threatening	Class D felony
53a-70a	Possess or purport to possess a deadly weapon when committing 1st degree sexual assault	Class B felony or, if victim is under age 16, class A felony, with mandatory minimum prison terms ranging from 5 to 20 years
53a-72b	Possess or purport to possess a firearm when committing 3rd degree sexual assault	Class C felony or, if victim is under age 16, class B felony, with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, plus period of special parole, which with imprisonment cannot be less than 10 years
53a-92a	Possess or purport to possess a firearm when committing 1st degree kidnapping	Class A felony with 10-year mandatory minimum prison term*
53a-94a	Possess or purport to possess a firearm when committing 2nd degree kidnapping	Class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term

Table 4 (continued)

POSSESSION AND POSSESSION REPRESENTATION OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
53a-102a	Possess or purport to possess a firearm when committing 2nd degree burglary	Class C felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-103a	Possess or purport to possess a firearm when committing 3rd degree burglary	Class D felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-174a	Knowingly possess or control any firearm within a correctional institution while incarcerated	Class B felony
53a-211	Own, control, or possess certain sawed-off shotguns or a silencer	Class D felony
53a-212	Intentionally steal a firearm	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term and $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
53a-217 (as amended by PA 23-53, § 31, and PA 23-89, § 8)	Possess a firearm or ammunition when ineligible to do so	Class C felony with two-year and one-day mandatory minimum prison term and $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
53a-217b	Possess a firearm on public or private school property or at school-sponsored activities knowing that one is not authorized to do so	Class D felony
53a-217c (as amended by PA 23-53, § 32, and PA 23-89, § 9)	Possess a handgun when ineligible to do so	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term and $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it
53a-217e(e)	Hunt illegally in specific ways, including being in possession of certain firearms at a time of day when hunting is not permitted	Class C misdemeanor
CARRY OFFENSES		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
2-1e(c) & (d)	Carry a dischargeable weapon in certain buildings where, generally, legislative business is conducted (e.g., buildings with the legislative chambers and legislators' offices)	Class D felony
29-35(a)(1) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 1, and PA 23-203, § 1); 29-37(b) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 2)	Carry a handgun without a gun permit	Class D felony, one-year mandatory minimum prison term if without mitigating circumstances, and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited

Table 4 (continued)

CARRY OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
29-35(a)(2) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 1, and PA 23-203, § 1); 29-37(b) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 2)	Knowingly carry a firearm with the intent to display it	Class B misdemeanor for a first violation and class A misdemeanor for subsequent violations+
29-35(b) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 1, and PA 23-203, § 1); 29-37(b) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 2)	Fail to (1) carry a gun permit while carrying a handgun or (2) show a gun permit to law enforcement under specified circumstances	Infraction ($35 fine)
29-38	Knowingly carry an unpermitted handgun, unregistered machine gun, or other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument in a vehicle	Class D felony
29-161z	Carry, or allow to carry, a firearm while on security officer duty or en route to such work without a special DESPP gun permit	$75 fine per offense and security service license, special DESPP gun permit, and special DESPP instructor approval may be suspended or revoked
53-202f(a) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 15)	Transport an assault weapon in an unauthorized manner	Class E felony
53-202l(c) & (e) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 17)	Knowingly carry or transport a firearm loaded with an armor piercing bullet or an incendiary .50 caliber bullet	Class D felony+
53-205 (as amended by PA 23-53, § 34)	Carry a loaded firearm other than a handgun in a vehicle or snowmobile	Class D misdemeanor
53-206c(c) & (e)	Carry a facsimile of a firearm in a threatening manner	Class B misdemeanor
53-206d(a)	Carry a loaded firearm while intoxicated	Class B misdemeanor
53a-134	Be armed with a deadly weapon when committing a robbery or immediately fleeing from a robbery	Class B felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-174	Carry a firearm without authorization into a correctional institution	Class D felony
53a-174a	Knowingly carry a firearm within a correctional institution while incarcerated	Class B felony

Table 4 (continued)

DISPLAY OFFENSES		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
53-206c(c) & (e)	Display a facsimile of a firearm or simulate a firearm in a threatening manner	Class B misdemeanor
53-206c(d) & (e)	Display a facsimile of a firearm or simulate a firearm around emergency services personnel	Class B misdemeanor
53a-55a; 53a-35a	Display a firearm when committing 1st degree manslaughter	Class B felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term and maximum sentence of up to 40 years
53a-56a	Display a firearm when committing 2nd degree manslaughter	Class C felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-60a	Display a firearm when committing 2nd degree assault	Class D felony, or class C felony if the crime results in a serious physical injury, with one-year mandatory minimum prison term in either case
53a-60c	Display a firearm when committing 2nd degree assault and the victim is elderly, blind, physically disabled, pregnant, or a person with intellectual disability	Class D felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-61aa	Display a firearm when committing 2nd degree threatening	Class D felony
53a-70a	Display a deadly weapon when committing 1st degree sexual assault	Class B felony or, if victim is under age 16, class A felony, with mandatory minimum prison terms ranging from 5 to 20 years
53a-72b	Display a firearm when committing 3rd degree sexual assault	Class C felony or, if victim is under age 16, class B felony, with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, plus period of special parole, which with imprisonment cannot be less than 10 years
53a-92a	Display a firearm when committing 1st degree kidnapping	Class A felony with 10-year mandatory minimum prison term*
53a-94a	Display a firearm when committing 2nd degree kidnapping	Class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-102a	Display a firearm when committing 2nd degree burglary	Class C felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-103a	Display a firearm when committing 3rd degree burglary	Class D felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-134	Display a firearm when committing a robbery or immediately fleeing from a robbery	Class B felony
53a-135	Display a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument when committing a robbery or immediately fleeing from a robbery	Class C felony
USE AND THREAT OF USE OFFENSES		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
26-75; 26-81	Use a silencer on a firearm while hunting	Class D misdemeanor

Table 4 (continued)

USE AND THREAT OF USE OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
26-80b	Operate or use computer software or services that allows someone to remotely control a firearm to hunt when not physically present	Class A misdemeanor
26-85	Use or attempt to use a jacklight (i.e., artificial light) to take deer, including when used with certain rifles, shotguns, and ammunition, or kill or wound any deer with a firearm by the aid or use of any artificial light during a prescribed period after sunset	Forfeit firearm and ammunition plus, for (1) first offense, imprisonment of 30 days to 6 months, fine of $200 to $500, or both, and (2) subsequent offenses, imprisonment up to 364 days#, fine of $200 to $1,000, or both
26-107	Hunt, kill, or destroy any wildlife in a state wildlife refuge or closed area, or hunt, shoot, or kill any wildlife in any road next to those places, including with any firearm	Up to $100 fine
53-202(b)	Use a machine gun while committing or attempting to commit certain violent crimes	10 to 20 years imprisonment
53-202(c)(1)	Use a machine gun for offensive or aggressive purpose	5 to 10 years imprisonment, up to $1,000 fine, or both
53-203	Intentionally, negligently, or carelessly discharge a firearm in a way likely to cause bodily injury or death to a person or domestic animal or the wanton destruction of property	Class C misdemeanor
53-204	Hunt or discharge a firearm from a public highway	Up to $100 fine
53-206b	Teach anyone to use a firearm knowing or intending it to be unlawfully used in certain violent public disturbances or assemble with people to do so	Class C felony
53-206d(b); 53a-217e(h)	Hunt while intoxicated	Class A misdemeanor plus surrender of firearm and hunting license may be suspended
53-206g (as amended by PA 23-53, § 19)	Use a "rate of fire enhancement" (e.g., a bump stock)	Class D felony+
53a-55a; 53a-35a	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a firearm when committing 1st degree manslaughter	Class B felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term and maximum sentence of up to 40 years
53a-56a	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a firearm when committing 2nd degree manslaughter	Class C felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-59	Use a deadly weapon with intent to cause serious physical injury to another person, or discharge a firearm with intent to cause physical injury to another person, and cause that injury	Class B felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term or 10-year mandatory minimum if victim is under age 10 or a witness

Table 4 (continued)

USE AND THREAT OF USE OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
53a-60	Use a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument (other than discharging a firearm) with intent to cause physical injury and causing that injury or use a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument recklessly to cause serious physical injury	Class D felony or class C felony if the crime results in a serious physical injury
53a-60a	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a firearm when committing 2nd degree assault	Class D felony, or class C felony if the crime results in a serious physical injury, with one-year mandatory minimum prison term in either case
53a-60c	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a firearm when committing 2nd degree assault and the victim is elderly, blind, physically disabled, pregnant, or a person with intellectual disability	Class D felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-61	Use a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument with criminal negligence and cause physical injury	Class A misdemeanor with mandatory one-year prison term
53a-61aa	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a firearm when committing 2nd degree threatening	Class D felony
53a-70a	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a deadly weapon when committing 1st degree sexual assault	Class B felony or, if victim is under age 16, class A felony, with mandatory minimum prison terms ranging from 5 to 20 years
53a-72b	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a firearm when committing 3rd degree sexual assault	Class C felony or, if victim is under age 16, class B felony, with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, plus period of special parole, which with imprisonment cannot be less than 10 years
53a-92a	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a firearm when committing 1st degree kidnapping	Class A felony with 10-year mandatory minimum prison term*
53a-94a	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a firearm when committing 2nd degree kidnapping	Class B felony with three-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-101	Enter or unlawfully remain in a building with intent to commit a crime and armed with a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument	Class B felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-102a	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a firearm when committing 2nd degree burglary	Class C felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-103a	Use, or be armed with and threaten to use, a firearm when committing 3rd degree burglary	Class D felony with one-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-134	Use or threaten to use a dangerous instrument or threaten to use a firearm when committing a robbery or immediately fleeing from a robbery	Class B felony
53a-135	Threaten to use a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument when committing a robbery or immediately fleeing from a robbery	Class C felony
53a-216	Use or threaten to use a firearm when committing a class A, B, C, or unclassified felony	Class D felony with five-year mandatory minimum prison term

Table 4 (continued)

USE AND THREAT OF USE OFFENSES (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
53a-217e(b), (f) & (h)	Discharge certain firearms with criminal negligence while hunting and cause another person's death	Class D felony plus surrender of firearm, but enhanced penalty if violator was convicted under certain provisions of this statute or 53-206d(b) within previous five years; hunting license may be suspended
53a-217e(c), (f) & (h)	Discharge certain firearms and cause another person's serious physical injury or violate 26-85 with, in both instances, criminal negligence while hunting	Class A misdemeanor with minimum $400 fine plus surrender of firearm, but enhanced penalty if violator was convicted under certain provisions of this statute or 53-206d(b) within previous five years; hunting license may be suspended
53a-217e(d), (f) & (h)	Hunt illegally in specific ways, including discharging a firearm at a time of day when hunting is not permitted	Class B misdemeanor with minimum $200 fine plus surrender of firearm, but enhanced penalty if violator was convicted under certain provisions of this statute or 53-206d(b) within previous five years; hunting license may be suspended
53a-217e(e) & (h)	Hunt illegally in specific ways, including discharging a firearm from certain locations	Class C misdemeanor and hunting license may be suspended
PERMITTING SURRENDER OFFENSES		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
29-32	Fail to surrender revoked handgun carry permit within five days of written notification	Class A misdemeanor
29-36i	Fail to surrender revoked handgun eligibility certificate within five days of written notification	Class A misdemeanor
29-37s	Fail to surrender revoked long gun eligibility certificate within five days of written notification	Class A misdemeanor
29-38p	Fail to surrender revoked ammunition certificate within five days of written notification	Class A misdemeanor

+ For these offenses, the law authorizes the court to suspend prosecution under certain circumstances for first-time offenses not of a serious nature.

Effective October 1, 2021, CGS § 53a-36a reduced the maximum sentence for misdemeanors from one year to 364 days.

* CGS §§ 53a-28 (as amended by PA 23-149, § 8) & 53a-29 prohibit suspending or reducing any sentence for a class A felony, meaning that the 10-year minimum sentence for a class A felony becomes a mandatory minimum, unless the law specifies otherwise. In cases noted above, the Connecticut Supreme Court has ruled that where a more serious crime carries a lesser penalty, this penalty must prevail and be applied to the less serious crime.

Table 5 below compiles offenses and penalties from Table 4 that explicitly involve minors or relate to hunting.

Table 5: Compilations of Certain Firearm Related Offenses and Penalties

OFFENSES INVOLVING HUNTING		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
26-75; 26-81	Use a silencer on a firearm while hunting	Class D misdemeanor
26-80b	Operate, provide, sell, or use computer software or services that allows someone to remotely control a firearm to hunt when not physically present	Class A misdemeanor
26-85	Use, attempt to use, or possess a jacklight (i.e., artificial light) to take deer, including when used with certain rifles, shotguns, and ammunition, or kill or wound any deer with a firearm by the aid or use of any artificial light during a prescribed period after sunset	Forfeit firearm and ammunition plus, for (1) first offense, imprisonment of 30 days to 6 months, fine of $200 to $500, or both, and (2) subsequent offenses, imprisonment up to 364 days#, fine of $200 to $1,000, or both
26-107	Hunt, kill, or destroy any wildlife in a state wildlife refuge or closed area, or hunt, shoot, or kill any wildlife in any road next to those places, including with any firearm	Up to $100 fine
53-204	Hunt or discharge a firearm from a public highway	Up to $100 fine
53-206d(b); 53a-217e(h)	Hunt while intoxicated	Class A misdemeanor plus surrender of firearm and hunting license may be suspended
53a-217e(b), (f) & (h)	Discharge certain firearms with criminal negligence while hunting and cause another person's death	Class D felony plus surrender of firearm, but enhanced penalty if violator was convicted under certain provisions of this statute or 53-206d(b) within previous five years; hunting license may be suspended
53a-217e(c), (f) & (h)	Discharge certain firearms and cause another person's serious physical injury or violate 26-85 with, in both instances, criminal negligence while hunting	Class A misdemeanor with minimum $400 fine plus surrender of firearm, but enhanced penalty if violator was convicted under certain provisions of this statute or 53-206d(b) within previous five years; hunting license may be suspended
53a-217e(d), (f) & (h)	Hunt illegally in specific ways, including discharging a firearm at a time of day when hunting is not permitted	Class B misdemeanor with minimum $200 fine plus surrender of firearm, but enhanced penalty if violator was convicted under certain provisions of this statute or 53-206d(b) within previous five years; hunting license may be suspended
53a-217e(e)	Hunt illegally in specific ways, including discharging a firearm from certain locations or being in possession of certain firearms at a time of day when hunting is not permitted	Class C misdemeanor and hunting license may be suspended

Table 5 (continued)

OFFENSES INVOLVING MINORS		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
29-34(b) & (c)	Sell or transfer a handgun to anyone under age 21	Class C felony with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, $5,000 minimum fine unless court states on the record its reasons for reducing it, and any handgun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited
29-37a(b), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8)	Sell or transfer a long gun at retail to anyone under age 18	Class D felony or, if the seller or transferor knows the long gun is stolen or that its serial or other identifying number is defaced, class B felony, and any long gun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-37a(b), (i) & (j) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 11, and PA 23-130, §§ 7 & 8)	Sell or transfer a semi-automatic centerfire rifle that accepts a capacity exceeding five rounds to anyone under age 21	Class D felony or, if the seller or transferor knows the rifle is stolen or that its serial or other identifying number is defaced, class B felony, and any long gun in any person's possession in violation of this law must be forfeited+
29-37f	Employ minors under age 18 to sell firearms in certain retail establishments	Up to $10,000 per day for each violation
29-38m(b) & (e) (as amended by PA 23-53, § 14)	Sell ammunition or an ammunition magazine to a person under age 18	Class D felony
53-202(c)(2)	Sell or transfer a machine gun to a minor under age 16	5 to 10 years imprisonment, up to $1,000 fine, or both
53-202b	Sell or transfer an assault weapon to a person under age 18	Class C felony with eight-year mandatory minimum prison term
53-206f	Fail to make reasonable efforts to halt a minor child's possession of a firearm when he or she is the child's parent or guardian who knows the child possesses the firearm and is ineligible to do so	Class A misdemeanor or class D felony if the child hurts or kills someone with the firearm
53a-59	Use a deadly weapon with intent to cause serious physical injury to another person, or discharge a firearm with intent to cause physical injury to another person, and cause that injury, and the victim is under age 10	Class B felony with 10-year mandatory minimum prison term
53a-70a	Use, be armed with and threaten to use, display, possess, or purport to possess a deadly weapon when committing 1st degree sexual assault and victim is under age 16	Class A felony with mandatory minimum prison terms ranging from 10 to 20 years
53a-72b	Use, be armed with and threaten to use, display, possess, or purport to possess a firearm when committing 3rd degree sexual assault and the victim is under age 16	Class B felony, with two-year mandatory minimum prison term, plus period of special parole, which with imprisonment cannot be less than 10 years

Table 5 (continued)

OFFENSES INVOLVING MINORS (continued)		
Statute	**Brief Description of Offense**	**Brief Summary of Penalty**
53a-217b	Possess a firearm on public or private school property or at school-sponsored activities knowing that one is not authorized to do so	Class D felony

Effective October 1, 2021, CGS § 53a-36a reduced the maximum sentence for misdemeanors from one year to 364 days.

+ For these offenses, the law authorizes the court to suspend prosecution under certain circumstances for first-time offenses not of a serious nature.

Penalties by Offense Class

Table 6 below shows the penalties for various classes of offenses.

Table 6: Table on Penalties

Classification of Crime	Prison Term	Fine (up to)
Class A felony (murder with special circumstances)	Life, without release	$20,000
Class A felony (murder)	25 to 60 years	20,000
Class A felony (aggravated sexual assault of a minor)	25 to 50 years	20,000
Class A felony	10 to 25 years	20,000
Class B felony (1st degree manslaughter with a firearm)	5 to 40 years	15,000
Class B felony	1 to 20 years	15,000
Class C felony	1 to 10 years	10,000
Class D felony	up to 5 years	5,000
Class E felony	up to 3 years	3,500
Class A misdemeanor	up to 364 days#	2,000
Class B misdemeanor	up to 6 months	1,000
Class C misdemeanor	up to 3 months	500
Class D misdemeanor	up to 30 days	250

Effective October 1, 2021, CGS § 53a-36a reduced the maximum sentence for misdemeanors from one year to 364 days.

Penalty Enhancements

Class A, B, and C Felonies and Mandatory Sentences. CGS § 53-202j imposes a mandatory minimum eight-year sentence on anyone who uses, is armed with and threatens to use, displays, possesses, or purports to possess an assault weapon while committing a class A, B, or C felony. CGS § 53-202k imposes a mandatory minimum five-year sentence on anyone who uses, is

armed with and threatens to use, displays, possesses, or purports to possess a firearm other than an assault weapon while committing a class A, B, or C felony. In both cases, the sentence is in addition and consecutive to any imprisonment for the felony.

Persistent Offenders. CGS § 53a-40(a) & (i) requires the court to impose, under the persistent dangerous felony offender law, enhanced sentences based on previous convictions for certain crimes. The firearm offenses subject to the persistent dangerous felony provision include, among others, second-degree burglary with a firearm and third-degree sexual assault with a firearm.

In some cases, other persistent offender laws also apply to firearm convictions. For example, third-degree sexual assault with a firearm is covered by the persistent dangerous sexual offender law (CGS § 53a-40(b) & (j)).

Serious Firearm Offenders. State law generally sets more stringent release conditions for certain people who commit a serious firearm offense or are a serious firearm offender. A "serious firearm offense" is:

1. illegally selling, transferring, purchasing, or possessing a large capacity magazine;
2. possessing a stolen firearm or a firearm that is altered in a way that makes it unlawful;
3. altering, removing, or defacing a firearm's identification mark, serial number, or name;
4. manufacturing, possessing, selling, transferring, or purchasing a firearm without the unique serial number or other identification mark;
5. knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence, facilitating, aiding, or abetting the manufacture of a firearm (a) by someone prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm or (b) that a person is otherwise prohibited from purchasing or possessing; or
6. any crime of which an essential element is that the person discharged, used, or was armed with and threatened the use of a firearm (PA 23-53, § 36, codified as CGS § 53a-3(24)).

A "serious firearm offender" is a person who has been convicted of a serious firearm offense twice or was convicted of a serious firearm offense and was previously convicted of:

1. altering, removing, or defacing a firearm's identification mark, serial number, or name;
2. manufacturing, possessing, selling, transferring, or purchasing a firearm without an identification serial number or mark;
3. knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence, facilitating, aiding, or abetting the manufacture of a firearm, as described above;

4. criminally possessing a firearm, ammunition, or electronic defense weapon or handgun due to specified disqualifying offenses; or

5. two or more additional felony offenses (PA 23-53, § 36, codified as CGS § 53a-3(25)).

For more information, see OLR Report 2023-R-0168.

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