

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

SENATOR RICHARD T. MOORE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
Worcester and Norfolk District

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Vice Chairman
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ETHICS AND RULES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
BILLS IN THIRD READING

August 2, 2013

Senator James E. Timilty, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Harold P. Naughton Jr., House Chair
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton Jr.:

I am writing in support of *Senate Bill 1160, An Act Relative to Surrender and Storage*. This bill is scheduled to be heard by the Committee today.

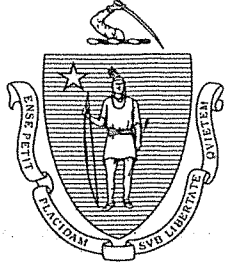
Simply, this bill would allow the licensing authority the ability to dispose of firearms after one year should certain criteria is met.

I respectfully request that the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security favorably report this bill. Of course, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard T. Moore".

RICHARD T. MOORE
Senate President Pro Tempore



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Representative Harold P. Naughton Jr., House Chair
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton Jr.:

I am writing in support of *Senate Bill 1161, An Act Relative to Resolutions to Firearm Licensing*. This bill is scheduled to be heard by the Committee today.

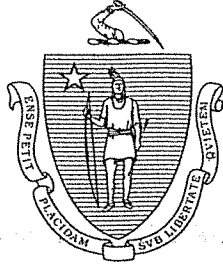
Simply, this bill would require an applicant's fee be refunded in full if the application is not processed in 40 days. The bill would also require that the application be processed immediately and not allow for the applicant's license be suspended, revoked or denied until the application has been formally reviewed.

I respectfully request that the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security favorably report this bill. Of course, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard T. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

RICHARD T. MOORE
Senate President Pro Tempore



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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State House, Room 507
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Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton Jr.:

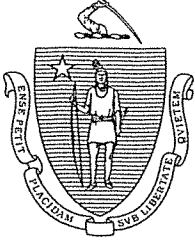
I am writing in support of *Senate Bill 1156, An Act Relative to Carry Firearms and Certain Knives*. This bill is scheduled to be heard by the Committee today.

I respectfully request that the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security favorably report this bill. Of course, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard T. Moore".

RICHARD T. MOORE
Senate President Pro Tempore



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

KEVIN J. KUROS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
8TH WORCESTER DISTRICT

Committees:
Post Audit & Oversight
Municipalities & Regional Government
Economic Development & Emerging Technologies

September 16, 2013

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 443
TEL. (617) 722-2460 ext. 8996
DISTRICT (774) 495-0538

Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
Rooms 507/167
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton:

I write this letter in support of a bill I proposed, H.3252 - An Act Relative to Senior Gun Owner Equity. As you and the committee are aware, this bill was on the agenda for your hearing this past Friday, September 13th.

It is with my apologies that I did not attend this hearing. I trust you understand that it is with the utmost respect that I chose not to be in attendance due to the seriousness of many other proposed bills on the agenda. Since my legislation is more of an administrative nature, I decided to provide this written testimony rather than taking up time at Friday's crowded hearing.

Bill H.3252 simply adds language to the existing firearm identification card language to give senior citizens of a certain age, who already hold FID's, a more affordable way to keep and maintain their FID's.

As you probably know, once a senior citizen turns 70 years old, the FID registration fee is waived. If they register at age 69 years and 364 days, they pay the entire fee.

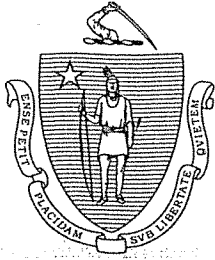
This legislation seeks to rectify that inequity, and simply prorates the registration fee so they pay only for the number of partial years until they have reached the age of 70. So in my prior example, they would pay for one year and the remainder of their fee would be waived. Someone who is 68 would pay for two years, etc.

I think this makes sense and is fair for all parties, and I hope the Committee will make a favorable recommendation on this bill. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me or my office.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. J. Kuros", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin J. Kuros
State Representative
8th Worcester District



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

SMITTY PIGNATELLI
REPRESENTATIVE
4TH BERKSHIRE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2228
LENOX, MA 01240

Committees on:
House Ways and Means
Higher Education
Tourism, Arts and Culture
Personnel and Administration

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 448
TEL. (617) 722-2582
FAX. (617) 722-2879

September 13, 2013

Chairman James E. Timilty
Committee on Public Safety and
Homeland Security
State House, Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Chairman Harold P. Naughton
Committee on Public Safety and
Homeland Security
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Re: H. 3316- An Act establishing a voluntary firearm turn-in program

Dear Chairmen Timilty and Naughton,

I write to register my support for House Bill 3316, An Act establishing a voluntary firearm turn-in program.

This bill would establish a voluntary fire-arm turn in program run by the state police in conjunction with county sheriffs. Any citizen of the Commonwealth shall be able to exchange a firearm for a cash reward or a gift certificate. Each county sheriff shall designate or establish at least 1 location in his or her county where personnel will accept firearms on 1 day of every month.

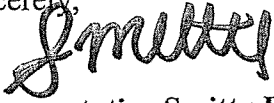
Any citizen of the commonwealth who complies with this program shall not be asked for identification when exchanging a firearm through this program, although he or she may voluntarily sign a list maintained by the colonel to show that a specific firearm was relinquished. Any citizen of the commonwealth who complies with the policies set forth by the colonel shall be immune from prosecution for possession of a firearm. Any firearm surrendered in accordance with this program that is reported stolen shall be returned to its lawful owner. All weapons that have been voluntarily surrendered that are not suspected to be evidence of criminal activity and have not been reported stolen shall be melted down or otherwise disposed of in accordance with procedures established by the colonel.

It is of the utmost importance that citizens of the Commonwealth should be able to dispose of

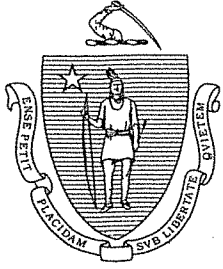
option. I proposed this bill because a constituent of mine had this very problem and I hope no other citizen of Massachusetts should run up against this.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter, and again I ask that this petition receive a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Smitty". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Representative Smitty Pignatelli
Fourth Berkshire District



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR EILEEN M. DONOGHUE
First Middlesex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 112
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
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June 13, 2013

The Honorable James E. Timilty
The Honorable Harold P. Naughton
The Joint Committee on Public Safety
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Timilty and Chair Naughton,

I hope this letter finds all is well. I am writing today in regards to **Senate Bill 1131, *An Act Increasing the Penalties for the Illegal Possession of Firearms***. It is my hope that the Committee will release this legislation with a favorable report.

Our current laws regulating illegal firearms are plagued by a number of serious loopholes. Specifically, certain types of very serious weapons—assault weapons, such as the AK-47 and Uzi, covert guns that are disguised to look like flashlights or pens, and military-style machine guns that can discharge hundreds of rounds per minute—have the same minimum penalties as ordinary handguns, are treated even less seriously, or are ineligible for the enhanced sentences that violent felons and drug dealers receive when they are convicted of using ordinary handguns. In addition, illegal handguns recovered from a criminal's home are currently treated as misdemeanor offenses—treating them less seriously than having a false driver's license or passing a bad check.

Specifically this bill would increase the penalties for the possession of an assault weapon, covert weapon, machine gun or sawed-off shotgun, and an unlicensed firearm in the home. Additionally, the possession of an unlicensed firearm in the home, a large capacity weapon, assault weapon, or a covert weapon would be added to the Armed Career Criminal statute, meaning that whoever is previously convicted of a violent crime or of a serious drug offense and then carries a dangerous weapon, as described above, will automatically receive an increased punishment.

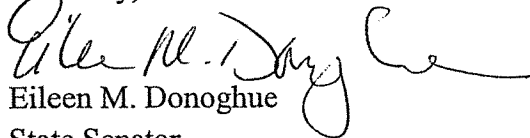
Senate Bill 1131:
An Act Increasing the Penalties for the Illegal Possession of Firearms

Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS
Vice Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS,
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
WAYS AND MEANS
POST AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

This bill seeks to reform the penalty structure to reflect the true seriousness of these weapons, making the most dangerous weapons eligible for the same enhancements that we have long applied to regular guns. It is for these reasons that I support this legislation.

Thank you for any time and consideration you can afford this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (617) 722-1630 should you have any questions or comments.

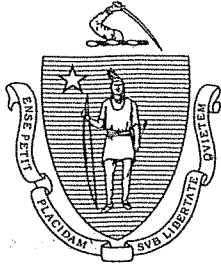
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eileen M. Donoghue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Eileen M. Donoghue

State Senator

First Middlesex District



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR EILEEN M. DONOGHUE
First Middlesex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 112
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Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS
Vice Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
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POST AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

June 13, 2013

The Honorable James E. Timilty, Senate Chair
The Honorable Harold P. Naughton, Jr., House Chair
The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Timilty and Chair Naughton,

I hope this letter finds all is well. It has recently come to my attention that the Joint Committee on the Judiciary is considering **Senate Bill 1132, *An Act Relative to Dangerous Weapons***. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the committee to support the favorable passage of this legislation.

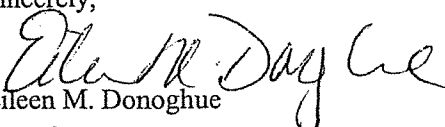
This legislation would expand and alter the list of enumerated weapons. Weapons such as large folding knives, cutting or stabbing instruments like machetes, disguised knives, butterfly knives, undetectable weapons, electrical weapons, and striking weapons will be added to the list of dangerous weapons; while others like slingshots would be removed from the list because they are so rarely used by criminals to inflict bodily injury.

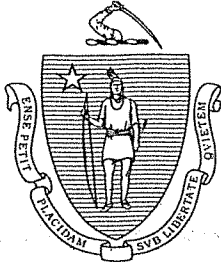
The main reason I filed this legislation is because of the widespread use of machetes by gangs in the City of Lowell, which I represent. Because machetes are not considered a "dangerous weapon" by definition, certain individuals are taking advantage of this deficiency and are using machetes to inflict bodily injury. The purpose of the statute is to prohibit the carrying by civilians of instruments designed primarily for the infliction of physical injury on others. By allowing the carrying of such instruments as machetes or others that may not be enumerated by statute, we are not fulfilling the goal and purpose of this statute.

It is for these reasons that I support this bill and respectfully request that the Joint Committee on the Judiciary give Senate Bill 761 a favorable recommendation.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (617) 722-1630.

Sincerely,


Eileen M. Donoghue
State Senator



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

SENATOR RICHARD T. MOORE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
Worcester and Norfolk District

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Vice Chairman
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ETHICS AND RULES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
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August 2, 2013

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Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Harold P. Naughton Jr., House Chair
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton Jr.:

I am writing in support of *Senate Bill 1157, An Act Prohibiting the confiscation of lawfully owned firearms during a state of emergency*. This bill is scheduled to be heard by the Committee today.

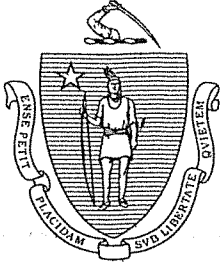
Simply, this bill would prohibit the government or any person acting on behalf of the Commonwealth to confiscate any lawfully owned firearm or ammunition.

I respectfully request that the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security favorably report this bill. Of course, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard T. Moore".

RICHARD T. MOORE
Senate President Pro Tempore



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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Vice Chairman
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ETHICS AND RULES

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State House, Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Harold P. Naughton Jr., House Chair
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton Jr.:

I am writing in support of *Senate Bill 1159, An Act Relative to Deceptive Weapons*. This bill is scheduled to be heard by the Committee today.

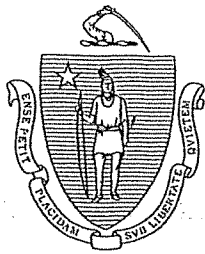
Simply, this bill will punish any person that commits a crime while intending to convey the presence of a weapon to a potential victim of a law enforcement officer.

I respectfully request that the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security favorably report this bill. Of course, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard T. Moore".

RICHARD T. MOORE
Senate President Pro Tempore



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
26TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
SOMERVILLE - CAMBRIDGE
ROOM 238, STATE HOUSE
TEL: (617) 722-2380
FAX: (617) 722-2847
Timothy.Toomey@MAhouse.gov

COMMITTEES:
VICE CHAIR, REVENUE
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
STATE ADMINISTRATION AND
REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

September 13, 2013

Senator James E. Timilty, Chairman
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House— Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Harold P. Naughton, Chairman
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House – Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

RE: H3282, *An Act relative to firearms in the Commonwealth*

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton:

I am writing to express my full support for H3282, *An Act relative to firearms in the Commonwealth*, and to respectfully request that your committee report the bill favorably.


H3282 is comprised of seven sections. If enacted, this legislation would improve upon our Commonwealth's public safety laws by 1) creating a market-driven mechanism for the settlement of claims stemming from accidental firearm discharges, 2) augmenting the Commonwealth's gun control advisory board with representatives including a District Attorney and a delegate from Stop Handgun Violence, 3) requiring all gun purchases and transfers to be recorded by the seller and reported to the authorities within seven days of the transaction, 4) adding a robust training component, including at least four hours of live-fire practice with a qualified instructor, to our current firearms licensing process, 5) limiting citizens to one firearm purchase per month, with an exception for gun collectors and historians, 6) updating the technical requirements for trigger locks sold within the Commonwealth, and 7) enhancing mandatory minimum sentences for criminals who violate our gun control laws.

I have served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives since 1993, and in that time, our nation has made great strides in reducing the incidence of violent crime. We are recognized as national leaders in the prevention of gun violence, and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control shows a strong correlation between our tough gun safety laws and our lower rates of firearm deaths. Nonetheless, there were 51 murders just in Boston last year, and a gun was involved in at least 36 of those homicides. In 2011, Somerville Police Det. Mario Oliveira was shot five times in the line of duty as he and his fellow officers attempted to arrest a suspected gun dealer. Even in my hometown of Cambridge, where there have never been more than half a dozen murders in any year in this century, a 17-year-old girl was shot dead last summer just a few steps from her own front door; in many other areas of our Commonwealth, however, this kind of story is all too common. The national data clearly show that when a gun is involved in a crime, the likelihood of someone being seriously injured or killed increases exponentially. Simply put, we must do more to stem the stubborn tide of gun-related homicides, suicides, and injuries.

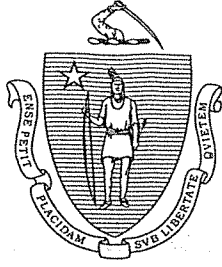
H3282 offers a low-cost way to upgrade our public safety laws, keep guns out of the wrong hands, and safeguard the constitutionally protected rights of law-abiding citizens. Gun owners will be required to carry liability insurance on their weapons, thereby ensuring that money will be available to compensate victims injured by an accidental discharge, and new trigger lock statutes will help reduce the number of unintentional discharges. The new live-fire instruction requirement will lead to a new generation of law-abiding gun owners who are better trained and better able to handle a worst-case scenario. And the one gun per month limit would further restrict bad actors and straw purchasers while protecting the rights of collectors and doing nothing to inconvenience marksmen, sport shooters, outdoorsmen, and people who wish to own a firearm for self-defense.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter, and for the extraordinary efforts the committee has taken to include every voice from across the Commonwealth in this conversation. H3282 includes a wide variety of common-sense measures for improving our public safety, and I respectfully ask for a favorable report from your committee. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (617)-722-2380. I look forward to working with you and our other colleagues to create the best possible legislation for Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



Rep. Timothy J. Toomey Jr.
26th Middlesex District



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR STEPHEN M. BREWER
Worcester, Hampden,
Hampshire and Middlesex District

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September 13, 2013

Chairman
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 212
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053

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The Honorable James E. Timilty, Senate Chair
The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Harold P. Naughton, Jr., House Chair
The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton:

I am writing to relay the opposition of the Town of Brookfield and its' residents to new gun restrictions in the Commonwealth.

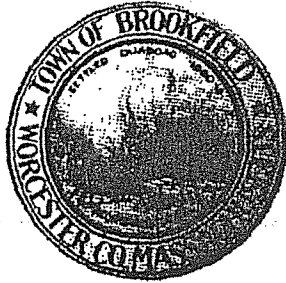
Enclosed, please find a copy of the vote taken by the town on Tuesday, April 30, 2013 where it was found that 593 residents oppose any new gun restrictions proposed by the governor or members of the legislature, and 348 residents were in favor of such restrictions. I respectfully request your consideration of this vote as testimony from the Town of Brookfield during the public hearing scheduled for September 13, 2013.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


STEPHEN M. BREWER
State Senator

SMB/er
Enclosure



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
Justice of the Peace and Notary Public
MICHAEL P. SEERY
6 CENTRAL STREET
BROOKFIELD, MA 01506
508-867-2930 EXT.12

August 22, 2013

To: Representative Harold Naughton
200 High Street, 1st Floor
Clinton MA 01510

Dear Chairman Naughton:

I am writing to certify that the Town of Brookfield voted to oppose restrictive new proposed gun laws at the annual Town Election held on Tuesday April 30th 2013. The question read:

Non-Binding Question

Do you support more gun restrictions proposed by the governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and members of the legislature on law abiding firearm owners?

593 opposed
348 in favor

I ask that you include this in testimony at the next public hearing held by the Joint committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety.

Sincerely,


Michael P. Seery
Town Clerk

