
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 981 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SANCHEZ, HANBIDGE, GUENST, DALEY, SAMUELSON,
MCNEILL, FREEMAN, CIRESI, VITALI, WEBSTER, N. NELSON,
T. DAVIS, SHUSTERMAN, SIMS, HOHENSTEIN, A. DAVIS, ISAACSON,
KRAJEWSKI, SCHWEYER, WARREN, FRANKEL AND MALAGARI,
MARCH 19, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 19, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in inchoate crimes, further providing
3 for prohibited offensive weapons.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 908(c) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended and subsection (b) is amended
8 by adding a paragraph to read:

9 § 908. Prohibited offensive weapons.

10 * * *

11 (b) Exceptions.--

12 * * *

13 (4) This section shall not apply to possession of an
14 accelerated trigger activator purchased or otherwise obtained
15 by the defendant prior to the effective date of this
16 paragraph.

17 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following

1 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
2 subsection:

3 "Accelerated trigger activator." A part or combination of
4 parts designed and intended to accelerate the rate of fire of a
5 semiautomatic firearm to simulate the rate of fire of a
6 machinegun.

7 "Firearm." Any weapon which is designed to or may readily be
8 converted to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive
9 or the frame or receiver of any such weapon.

10 "Machinegun." As defined in section 201 of the Internal
11 Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 5845).

12 "Offensive weapons." Any bomb, grenade, [machine gun,]
13 machinegun, accelerated trigger activator, sawed-off shotgun
14 with a barrel less than 18 inches, firearm specially made or
15 specially adapted for concealment or silent discharge, any
16 blackjack, sandbag, metal knuckles, dagger, knife, razor or
17 cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an
18 automatic way by switch, push-button, spring mechanism, or
19 otherwise, any stun gun, stun baton, taser or other electronic
20 or electric weapon or other implement for the infliction of
21 serious bodily injury which serves no common lawful purpose.

22 * * *

23 Section 2. Within 10 days of the effective date of this
24 section, the Attorney General shall transmit notice describing
25 in detail the contents of this act to the Legislative Reference
26 Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

27 Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

28 (1) The following shall take effect immediately:

29 (i) Section 2 of this act.

30 (ii) This section.

1 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect 30 days
2 after the publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the
3 notice under section 2 of this act.