

**2026 -- S 2395**

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**S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

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**A N   A C T**

**RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS**

Introduced By: Senators Thompson, Dimitri, Burke, Ciccone, Famiglietti, Tikoian, Appollonio, Patalano, Raptakis, and Paolino

Date Introduced: January 30, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1        SECTION 1. Section 11-47-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons" is  
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3        **11-47-2. Definitions.**

4        When used in this chapter, the following words and phrases are construed as follows:

5        (1) "3D printing process" means 3D printing or additive manufacturing which is a process  
6 of making three (3) dimensional solid objects from a computer file and shall include any of various  
7 processes in which material is joined or solidified under computer control to create a three (3)  
8 dimensional object, with material being added together including liquid molecules or powder  
9 grains.

10        (2) "Antique firearm" is defined as that term is defined under the provisions of 18 U.S.C.  
11 § 921.

12        (3) "Binary trigger" means a device that replaces a standard trigger on a semi-automatic  
13 weapon and is designed to fire one round on the pull of the trigger and another round upon release  
14 of the trigger.

15        (4) "Bump-fire stock" means any device that replaces a semi-automatic weapon's standard  
16 stock and is designed to slide back and forth rapidly, harnessing the weapon's recoil to rapidly fire  
17 the weapon.

18        (5) "Crime gun" means any firearm used in a crime or identified by law enforcement as  
19 suspected of having been used in a criminal offense.

1                   (6) “Electronic dart gun” means any handheld device that transmits an electric current from  
2                   the device to a person by expelling steel or metal prongs, darts or projectiles to make contact with  
3                   a person, and is activated by a trigger button.

4                   ~~(6)~~(7) “Crime of violence” means and includes any of the following crimes or an attempt  
5                   to commit any of them: murder, manslaughter, rape, first- or second-degree sexual assault, first- or  
6                   second-degree child molestation, kidnapping, first- and second-degree arson, mayhem, robbery,  
7                   burglary, breaking and entering, any felony violation involving the illegal manufacture, sale, or  
8                   delivery of a controlled substance, or possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver a  
9                   controlled substance classified in schedule I or schedule II of § 21-28-2.08, any violation of § 21-  
10                  28-4.01.1 or § 21-28-4.01.2 or conspiracy to commit any violation of these statutes, assault with a  
11                  dangerous weapon, assault or battery involving grave bodily injury, or assault with intent to commit  
12                  any offense punishable as a felony; upon any conviction of an offense punishable as a felony  
13                  offense under § 12-29-5.

14                  ~~(7)~~(8) “Firearm” includes any machine gun, pistol, rifle, air rifle, air pistol, “blank gun,”  
15                  “BB gun,” or other instrument from which steel or metal projectiles are propelled, or that may  
16                  readily be converted to expel a projectile, except crossbows, recurve, compound, or longbows, ~~and~~  
17                  ~~except instruments propelling projectiles that are designed or normally used for a primary purpose~~  
18                  ~~other than as a weapon~~. The frame or receiver of the weapon shall be construed as a firearm under  
19                  the provisions of this section.

20                  ~~(8)~~(9) “Fugitive from justice” means any person who has fled from any state, territory, the  
21                  District of Columbia, or possession of the United States to avoid prosecution for a crime of violence  
22                  or to avoid giving testimony in any criminal proceeding.

23                  ~~(9)~~(10) “Ghost gun” means a firearm, including a frame or receiver, that lacks a unique  
24                  serial number engraved or cased in metal alloy on the frame or receiver by a licensed manufacturer,  
25                  maker, or importer under federal law or markings in accordance with 27 C.F.R. § 479.102. It does  
26                  not include a firearm that has been rendered permanently inoperable, or a firearm that is not  
27                  required to have a serial number in accordance with the federal Gun Control Act of 1968.

28                  ~~(10)~~(11) “Licensing authorities” means the board of police commissioners of a city or town  
29                  where the board has been instituted, the chief of police or superintendent of police of other cities  
30                  and towns having a regular organized police force, and, in towns where there is no chief of police  
31                  or superintendent of police, it means the town clerk who may issue licenses upon the  
32                  recommendation of the town sergeant, and it also means any other person or body duly authorized  
33                  by the city or town charter or by state law.

34                  ~~(11)~~(12) “Machine gun” means any weapon that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be

1 readily restored to shoot automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single  
2 function of the trigger. The term also includes the frame or receiver of the weapon, any combination  
3 of parts designed and intended for use in converting a weapon into a machine gun, and any  
4 combination of parts from which a machine gun can be assembled if the parts are in the possession  
5 or under the control of a person.

6 ~~(12)~~(13) “Major component” means, with respect to a firearm:

7 (i) The slide or cylinder or the frame or receiver of the firearm; and  
8 (ii) In the case of a rifle or shotgun, includes the barrel of the firearm.

9 ~~(13)~~(14) “Person” includes an individual, partnership, firm, association, or corporation.

10 ~~(14)~~(15) “Pistol” includes any pistol or revolver, and any shotgun, rifle, or similar weapon  
11 with overall length less than twenty-six inches (26”), but does not include any pistol or revolver  
12 designed for the use of blank cartridges only.

13 ~~(15)~~(16) “Rifle” shall have the same meaning as in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(c), and by barrel  
14 length and overall length not be subject to registration pursuant to the National Firearms Act, 26  
15 U.S.C. ch. 53 (prior § 5801 et seq.).

16 ~~(16)~~(17) “Sawed-off rifle” means any rifle with overall length of less than twenty-six  
17 inches (26”) or barrel length of less than sixteen inches (16”).

18 ~~(17)~~(18) “Sawed-off shotgun” means any shotgun with overall length of less than twenty-  
19 six inches (26”) or barrel length of less than eighteen inches (18”).

20 ~~(18)~~(19) “Sell” includes let or hire, give, lend, and transfer, and “purchase” includes hire,  
21 accept, and borrow, and “purchasing” shall be construed accordingly.

22 ~~(19)~~(20) “Shotgun” shall have the same meaning as in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(d), and by barrel  
23 length and overall length not be subject to registration pursuant to the National Firearms Act, 26  
24 U.S.C. ch. 53 (prior § 5801 et seq.).

25 (21) “Stun gun” means a battery powered handheld device that transmits an electric charge  
26 from the device to a person, while touching or applying the device to a person, and is activated by  
27 a trigger button.

28 ~~(20)~~(22) “Trigger crank” means a trigger actuator that attaches to the trigger of a semi-  
29 automatic weapon and causes the weapon to fire by turning the crank handle.

30 ~~(21)~~(23) “Undetectable firearm” means any firearm that:

31 (i) After removal of all parts, other than a major component, is not as detectable by walk-  
32 through metal detectors commonly used at airports or other public buildings; or  
33 (ii) Any major component of which, if subjected to inspection by the types of detection  
34 devices commonly used at airports or other public buildings for security screening, would not

- 1 generate an image that accurately depicts the shape of the component; or
- 2        (iii) Is manufactured wholly of plastic, fiberglass, or through a 3D printing process; or
- 3        (iv) Upon which the frame or receiver lacks a unique serial number engraved or cased into
- 4 on the frame or receiver by a licensed manufacturer, maker, or importer under federal law, or
- 5 markings in accordance with 27 C.F.R. § 479.102. Provided, however, this subsection shall not
- 6 apply to any firearm rendered permanently inoperable or a firearm manufactured prior to 1968.

7 SECTION 2. Section 11-47-42 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons"  
8 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**11-47-42. Weapons other than firearms prohibited.**

10 (a)(1) No person shall carry or possess or attempt to use against another any instrument or  
11 weapon of the kind commonly known as a blackjack, slingshot, billy, sandclub, sandbag, metal  
12 knuckles, slap glove, bludgeon, ~~stun gun~~, or the so called "Kung-Fu" weapons.

13 (2) No person shall with intent to use unlawfully against another, carry or possess a  
14 crossbow, dagger, dirk, stiletto, sword-in-cane, bowie knife, or other similar weapon designed to  
15 cut and stab another.

16 (3) No person shall wear or carry concealed upon his person, any of the above-mentioned  
17 instruments or weapons, or any razor, or knife of any description having a blade of more than three  
18 (3) inches in length measuring from the end of the handle where the blade is attached to the end of  
19 the blade, or other weapon of like kind or description.

20 Any person violating the provisions of these subsections shall be punished by a fine of not  
21 more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both,  
22 and the weapon so found shall be confiscated.

23 Any person violating the provisions of these subsections while he or she is incarcerated  
24 within the confines of the adult correctional institutions shall be punished by a fine of not less than  
25 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000), or by imprisonment  
26 for not less than one year nor more than five (5) years, or both, and the weapon so found shall be  
27 confiscated.

28 (b) No person shall sell to a person under eighteen (18) years of age, without the written  
29 authorization of the minor's parent or legal guardian, any stink bomb, blackjack, slingshot, bill,  
30 sandclub, sandbag, metal knuckles, slap glove, bludgeon, ~~stungun~~, paint ball gun, so called "kung-  
31 fu" weapons, dagger, dirk, stiletto, sword-in-cane, bowie knife, razor, or knife of any description  
32 having a blade of more than three inches (3") in length as described in subsection (a) of this section,  
33 or any multi-pronged star with sharpened edges designed to be used as a weapon and commonly  
34 known as a Chinese throwing star, except that an individual who is actually engaged in the

1 instruction of martial arts and licensed under § 5-43-1 [repealed] may carry and possess any multi-  
2 pronged star with sharpened edges for the sole purpose of instructional use. Any person violating  
3 the provisions of this subsection shall be punished by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars  
4 (\$1,000) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000), or by imprisonment for not less than one  
5 year nor more than five (5) years, or both, and the weapons so found shall be confiscated.

6 SECTION 3. Chapter 11-47 of the General Laws entitled "Weapons" is hereby amended  
7 by adding thereto the following section:

8 **11-47-8.2. Purchase, possession, sale or use of stun gun or electronic dart gun.**

9 (a) Except as otherwise prohibited by law or the provisions of §11-47-5, a person eighteen  
10 (18) years of age or over may purchase a stun gun or electronic dart gun.

11 (b) No person shall sell or attempt to sell, transfer, deliver or furnish a stun gun or electronic  
12 dart gun to a person who is less than eighteen (18) years of age. Any person convicted of violating  
13 the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and may be punished by imprisonment  
14 for not more than five (5) years.

15 (c) No person shall use or attempt to use a stun gun or electronic dart gun in the commission  
16 of a crime. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a  
17 felony and may be punished by a fine of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by imprisonment  
18 for not more than ten (10) years, or both.

19 (d) No person shall use or attempt to use a stun gun or electronic dart gun on a police officer  
20 who is engaged in the performance of their duty. Any person convicted of violating the provisions  
21 of this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and may be punished by a fine of up to ten thousand  
22 dollars (\$10,000), or by imprisonment for not more than ten (10) years, or both. Any sentence  
23 imposed upon a person pursuant to this subsection shall be imposed consecutively to and not  
24 concurrently with any sentence imposed for the underlying crime or attempted crime, and the  
25 person shall not be afforded the benefit of suspension or deferment of sentence.

26 (e) No person shall purchase, own, carry, transport, or have in their possession any stun  
27 gun or electronic dart gun if that person is prohibited from possessing a firearm pursuant to §11-  
28 47-5, or has, in this state or elsewhere, entered a plea of nolo contendere to or been convicted of a  
29 felony.

30 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS

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- 1        This act would provide that a person over the age of eighteen (18) years can purchase and
- 2        possess a stun gun or electronic dart gun and also prohibits the sale of a stun gun or electronic dart
- 3        gun to any person under the age of eighteen (18) years. It would also criminalize the use of a stun
- 4        gun or electronic dart gun in any criminal offense or the use of a stun gun or electronic dart gun
- 5        against any police officer engaged in the execution of their duty.
- 6        This act would take effect upon passage.

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