
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 556 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY DUSH, HUTCHINSON, LAUGHLIN, BARTOLOTTA AND
J. WARD, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous
3 articles, further providing for registration of firearms; and
4 imposing penalties.

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

7 Section 1. Section 6111.4 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 6111.4. Registration of firearms.

10 (a) Prohibitions.--

11 (1) Notwithstanding any section of this chapter to the
12 contrary, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to allow
13 any government, local government, other political subdivision
14 or law enforcement agency or any official, agent or employee
15 thereof to create, maintain or operate any registry of
16 firearm ownership within this Commonwealth. For the purposes
17 of this section only, the term "firearm" shall include any
18 weapon that is designed to or may readily be converted to
19 expel any projectile by the action of an explosive or the

1 frame or receiver of any such weapon.

2 (2) A payment settlement entity, merchant acquiring
3 entity or third party settlement organization as those terms
4 are defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6050W (relating to returns
5 relating to payments made in settlement of payment card and
6 third party network transactions) may not assign a merchant
7 category code to or otherwise classify a merchant that is a
8 seller of firearms or ammunition separately from general
9 merchandise retailers or sporting goods retailers.

10 (3) An entity involved in facilitating or processing a
11 payment card transaction, including a financial institution,
12 an acquirer, a payment card network or a payment card issuer,
13 may not assign to or require a merchant to use a merchant
14 category code that classifies the merchant as a firearms or
15 ammunition retailer or places the merchant in a similar
16 classification. A merchant of firearms or ammunition may be
17 assigned or may use a merchant category code for general
18 merchandise retailers or sporting goods retailers. Any
19 agreement or contractual provision to the contrary is void in
20 violation of the public policy of this State.

21 (b) Penalties.--

22 (1) A person or entity that violates subsection (a) (1)
23 commits a felony of the third degree. The Attorney General or
24 district attorney of the county where the alleged violation
25 occurred shall investigate complaints of a violation of
26 subsection (a) (1) and shall prosecute violators if evidence
27 indicates that a violation may have occurred.

28 (2) The Department of Banking and Securities shall
29 investigate alleged violations of subsection (b) (2) and (3)
30 and, upon finding a violation, bring an administrative action

1 seeking to impose an administrative fine of no more than
2 \$2,500 for each violation.

3 (c) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "firearm"
4 means any weapon that is designed to or may readily be converted
5 to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or the frame
6 or receiver of the weapon.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.