

## Rep. Craven, Robert E.

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**From:** Michael Recorvits <recorvits@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 5:16 PM  
**To:** Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.  
**Subject:** Re: House Bill Number: H5436 Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban Act of 2025.  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

In regards to Katherine Gregg's (Providence Journal) story of April 3, 2025 "AG releases report on gun crime in Rhode Island".

1. It would be informative if for the 486 gun cases closed in 2024 the report displayed the number of cases that "had jail time", "other dismissals", and "others something short of prison".
2. Also, of these 486 cases, **how many involved firearms were purchased legally and how many involved cases where the person had a RI legally obtained concealed carry permit?**
3. Criminals do not obtain their firearms legally not do they have concealed carry permits. H5436 will NOT prevent criminals from obtaining firearms nor from carrying firearms.

Items 1 and 2 are important to know when legislators are considering the "assault gun ban" proposed bill. I would ask that the AG be required to display this information and if item 2 can not be obtained from data available, then the AG should be required to obtain this information in the future.

Thank you.

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The Journal story.

POLITICS

# AG releases report on gun crime in Rhode Island. Here's what it says.



Katherine Gregg

Providence Journal

- Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha released the annual "Gun Crimes Report" which aims to demonstrate the state's commitment to enforcing existing gun laws.
- The report highlights a number of cases where individuals were charged and sentenced for gun-related offenses, including possession of ghost guns and high-capacity magazines.
- Despite these efforts, gun violence remains a concern in Rhode Island, with the report acknowledging that "our communities continue to be inundated with firearms."
- The report comes as lawmakers debate stricter gun control measures, with gun rights advocates arguing that the focus should be on enforcing existing laws rather than enacting new ones.

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island's [gun-rights warriors](#) greet every proposed new gun law, including this year's high-profile "[Assault Weapons Ban](#)," with this question: Why doesn't the state aggressively enforce the laws already on the books instead?

And, once a year, the attorney general [produces a report](#) that says it does, but "our communities continue to be inundated with firearms, and as you are aware, more guns in the hands of criminals means more gun violence and death."

What's in the Rhode Island Gun Crimes Report?

**Among the takeaways from the annual "Gun Crimes Report" that Attorney General Peter Neronha's office released on Thursday:**

- **An overall 486 gun cases were closed in one way or another in 2024, with some defendants getting jail sentences, others dismissals and others something short of prison.**

**"Hundreds if not thousands" of older gun cases are still pending for a host of reasons, including one that may inexplicably go back to 1978, according to the attorney general's office.**

**Of the 415 gun cases charged in 2024, 265 are still pending.**

- **The number of cases involving large-capacity feeding devices, capable of holding up to 30 rounds of ammunition, dropped year-over-year, from 293 to 246 cases.**

**But the number of cases involving magazines with a capacity for more than 30 rounds of ammunition was actually up slightly, from 55 in 2023 to 58 in 2024.**

- **The number of cases involving the manufacture and/or possession of banned "ghost guns" with no serial numbers – including 3D-printed firearms – was also up slightly from 99 to 100.**



## Report also cites individual cases

Stepping back from the numbers, the report cites individual cases to demonstrate that individuals are being charged, prosecuted and, in many instances, sent to prison. Among the examples:

**Ghost guns:** While banned in Rhode Island, the report says these untraceable ghost guns, manufactured on 3D printers or assembled from parts available online, "continue to be sought out ... by those who are otherwise prohibited from lawfully purchasing or possessing guns in Rhode Island," according to the report. The report cites, as an example, the Feb. 8, 2024, sentencing of Ferdinando Lombardi, 56, to nine years at the Adult Correctional Institutions for possession of 20 ghost guns and drug trafficking in the Greater Providence area.

**High-capacity magazines:** On April 10, 2024, the attorney general's office charged Martin McLintock, 31, with carrying a firearm in a vehicle without a license, possession of large capacity magazines, and possession of 10 grams or less of oxycodone.

Citing this case as an example of continuing law enforcement efforts to remove high-capacity magazines from criminals, the report cited the alleged seizure by state police troopers of 11 large capacity magazines, including four 31-round and four 17-round magazines from McLintock's vehicle after he was stopped for driving an unregistered vehicle with a suspended license.

His case is pending.

But a review of the data indicates seven cases involving guns and crimes of violence resulted in sentences exceeding 10 years; eight cases, between five and 10 years; 67 cases between two and four years and 11 cases in less than two years.

Some of the cases with the longest sentences may ring bells.

In June 2024, the last of the men involved in a July 30, 2012, triple homicide was sentenced to serve 18 years in prison for his role in the botched robbery that turned deadly.

Donovann Hall, 30, pleaded guilty to three counts of assault with intent to commit robbery and one of conspiracy in [the shooting deaths of Michael Martin, Damien Colon and Shameeka Barros](#). The charges were amended from murder to assault in exchange for Hall's admission. The three firearms charges were dismissed.

In July 2024, a Superior Court jury found Alex "Bemba" Perez, then 42, guilty of multiple firearms charges in the shooting and serious injury of Junior Rafael Pena Soto following an altercation at an Elmwood Avenue restaurant in Providence. The attorney general's office identified him as a "known member of the Trinitarios street gang."

The list goes on.

The weapons of choice in many of these cases: semi-automatic handguns and, in other cases, semi-automatic rifles.

### **Report meant to prove 'aggressive enforcement' of RI's gun laws**

Lawmakers directed the attorney general's office to produce the annual reports to address the argument each year by gun-rights advocates that Rhode Island does not need more gun laws, but rather needs to enforce the laws already on its books.

The report is meant to demonstrate that the attorney general's office is engaged in "aggressive enforcement" of Rhode Island's existing gun laws.

There has been no response yet from some of the legislature's most vocal gun rights advocates, including House Minority Leader Michael Chippendale. But Glenn Valentine, the chairman of the Rhode Island Second Amendment PAC, said the report proves that – despite Rhode Island's laws – "there is no physical barrier to folks obtaining ghost guns and hi-cap mags other than the desire to avoid prison time."

"This is why we see folks still being arrested and prosecuted for possession," he said, putting the proposed "Assault Weapons" ban in the same category. "They'll still be

accessible in a non-assault fashion post [if the bill passes] but would be readily converted by someone hell bent on causing harm to others. It's impossible to accomplish a functional ban."

*This story has been updated with new information.*