


THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO.....R-25-60.....

DATE...6-3-25.....

APPROVED..........MAYOR

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS TO BEAR ARMS AND AMEND THE RHODE ISLAND
ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN ACT OF 2025, H 5436 AND S 359

Resolved that,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 22 of the Rhode Island Constitution provides that "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."; and

WHEREAS, elected officials take an oath to support Constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island General Assembly has pending before it legislation, H 5436 and S 359 – the "Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban Act of 2025", seeking to regulate and restrict the rights afforded the citizens by broadly prohibiting the possession of a wide range of semiautomatic rifles, shotguns, and handguns; and

WHEREAS, the broad definition of "Assault Weapon" in H 5436 and S 359 could be more narrowly tailored to address military style weapons and hardware, such as provided in S 734:

"Assault weapon" means any weapon which automatically shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot more than one shot without manual reloading by a single function of the trigger. This shall include the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if the parts are in the possession or under the control of an individual.

"Machine gun" means any weapon as defined in § 11-47-2(10) and shall include any bump-stock device or similar device or attachment which allows a semi-automatic weapon to shoot more than one shot with a single pull of the trigger by harnessing the recoil energy of the semi automatic weapon to which it is affixed so that the trigger resets and continues firing without additional physical manipulation of the trigger by the shooter.

WHEREAS, a Proposed Substitute A to H 5436 is pending action before the House Judiciary Committee, and which also contains a provision objectionable to the Warwick City Council that is requested to be removed, specifically the rebuttable presumption in 11-47.2-3(b) that weapons subject to prosecution were obtained after July 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council also requests that any bill enacted by the General Assembly on this issue contain a process to obtain duplicate certificates of possession; and

WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council desires the Rhode Island General Assembly to respect the Constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms by refining the scope of firearms prohibited in H 5436 and S 359 as currently drafted, omitting the establishment of any rebuttable presumptions, and providing for procedures for the issuance of duplicate certificates of possession.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Warwick City Council hereby respectfully requests the General Assembly to support Constitutional rights to bear arms and consider amending the definitions in the "Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban Act of 2025", H 5436 and S 359, to be consistent with definitions proposed in S 734, remove the any rebuttable presumption that a weapon was obtained after July 1, 2026, and that a process to obtain a duplicate certificate of possession be established. .

The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Representatives and Senators from the City of Warwick, and the Chairs and Clerks of the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN LADOUCEUR
COUNCIL PRESIDENT SINAPI
COUNCILMAN NAPPA
COUNCILMAN FOLEY
COUNCILMAN MUTO
COUNCILMAN KIRBY
COUNCILMAN DELUISE

COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL