

Shooters Committee on Political Education

Position Paper



A 5208 Gabryszak
A 5281 Borelli
A 6356 Lentol
S 4039 Adams

Same as S 2505 Boyle
No same as
Same as S 4536 Golden
No same as

Exempts retired police officers from SAFE Act provisions pertaining to possession of large capacity magazines.

PURPOSE

This bill would create an exemption to allow qualified retired New York and federal law enforcement officers to possess large capacity ammunition feeding devices and “assault weapons.”

POSITION

These proposals should not be enacted. While we oppose the prohibition of modern sporting rifles and magazine capacity restrictions per se, any law must apply equally to all private individuals.

All private individuals should be treated the same under the law.

We believe that any restriction that prevents lawful firearm owners from employing the full functionality of their firearm only impedes the legitimate and fully justified use of firearms for self-defense, competitive and sporting purposes. Retired law enforcement officers, while they may have a wealth of experience, have no authority or obligation not held by an ordinary citizen.

Private citizens desire maximum magazine capacity for the same reasons as law enforcement personnel. The victims of violent crime are always the “first responders.” If imposing an artificial impediment on law enforcement personnel, active or retired, is not acceptable, there can be no justification for applying it to a law-abiding citizen who is likely to face the same risk.

The argument has been made that it is unfair to deprive retirees of the full use of the firearms that they have been using.

This is equally true of private citizens who have been deprived of the full use of their firearms through the passage of the SAFE Act. In fact, many private citizens have been using the same firearm for personal protection a lot longer than many law enforcement personnel who have gone through multiple re-equipments during their career.

It is not clear what the purpose for the provision for “assault rifles” is in A6356/S4536.

Again, this legislation would create two classes of citizens and in addition put the government in the position of being a “dealer of firearms” and providing otherwise prohibited firearms to a select group. A fastidious reading implies that in order to avoid the ten round/seven round magazine limits, qualification every three years would be required. This section is fraught with the potential for unintended consequences.