

Gun Owners' Action League

H.4139 – Mandatory Serialization and Registration

Registration

- Mandates the serialization and registration of all firearms possessed, manufactured, or assembled in Massachusetts.
- No exemptions for pre-serialization firearms unless it is considered an antique.

“Antique firearm”, any firearm or replica thereof manufactured in or prior to the year 1899 if such firearm: (i) is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; or (ii) uses rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United States and which is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade; provided, that “antique firearm” shall include any muzzle loading rifle, shotgun or pistol that is designed to use black powder, or a black powder substitute, and that cannot use fixed ammunition, unless the firearm: (i) incorporates a firearm frame or receiver; (ii) is converted into a muzzle loading weapon; or (iii) is a muzzle loading weapon that can be readily converted to fire fixed ammunition by replacing the barrel, bolt, breechblock, or any combination thereof.

- Must report to the state if you are loaning another licensed person any type of gun.
- Requires new residents moving into the commonwealth or acquired by heirs must be serialized within 60 days and registered.
- Retailers would have to register any new inventory within seven days.

Exemption for nonresidents: It specifically excludes nonresidents passing through but must meet Massachusetts storage requirements. It appears to require serialization and registration if the particular gun is to be used in Massachusetts such as hunting or competitions.

Serial Numbers

- Mandates the serialization of all firearms (includes frames and receivers). No exemptions for non-serialized collectibles or pre-serialization guns unless they are legally considered an antique.
- Requires new residents moving into the commonwealth or acquired by heirs must be serialized within 60 days and registered.
- Prohibits assembling a privately made firearm without obtaining a unique serial number from the department of criminal justice information services prior to manufacture or assembly.
- Self-serialization is not permitted. The language places limitations on who can apply serial numbers: a federally licensed firearms manufacturer, importer, or dealer who is authorized by federal law to serialize firearms, or a serial number issued by the director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in the United States Department of Justice or the department of criminal justice information services.
- It also set standards for serialization including - must be placed in a manner not susceptible of being readily obliterated, altered or removed. Anything made from non-metallic materials must have a metal plate permanently embedded in the material of the frame or receiver.