

# Pass the Civil Rights Restoration Act

*Immediate passage is necessary to bring Massachusetts gun laws into compliance!!*

On June 23, 2022 the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued a landmark civil rights decision in the case *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc., ET AL v. Bruen ET AL*. In that decision the highest court firmly ruled the Second Amendment is indeed an individual civil right enumerated in the United States Constitution. The Court reiterated the Second Amendment “...is not a second class right subject to an entirely different body of rules.” Further, any laws or regulations regarding the Second Amendment must meet the absolute highest standard of review.

**HD.5245 An Act Relative to Restoring Civil Rights** (The Civil Rights Restoration Act) would bring the Commonwealth’s laws into some compliance with the SCOTUS ruling.

The bill:

- Removes all arbitrary licensing standards such as “suitability” or “Chief’s discretion”. This so-called authority has been widely abused to prevent citizens with no criminal or mental health records from exercising their civil rights. This includes things like letters or names of reference.
- Standardized the ‘prohibited person’ definition for all gun licenses which is mandatory under the Equal Protection clause in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- Removes the unconstitutional ability to place any restrictions on firearm licenses.
- Places all responsibility for managing the licensing system in a manner compliant with the SCOTUS ruling and the Constitution squarely on the State. Including ultimate authority over local licensing agents.
- Establishes an online application system through the Massachusetts Gun Transaction Portal
- Repeals certain carry restrictions in the Commonwealth’s hunting and recreational vehicle laws.
- Establishes a rule that if the application is not processed in time required by law, the license will be issued automatically.
- Repeals the mandatory training now required to exercise Second Amendment civil rights. During COVID, this mandate was intentionally and punitively shut down to prevent citizens from applying for a license.
- Creates a Firearms License Applicant’s Bill of Rights
- Essentially complies with the Court’s ruling by removing any unconstitutional hurdles other than a thorough background check already established in Massachusetts laws.

**Pass The Civil Rights Restoration Act (HD.5245)!!!**

