
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 120 (S.209). An act relating to prohibiting unserialized firearms and unserialized firearms frames and receivers

Subjects: Firearms; criminal procedures; unserialized firearms, frames, and receivers

This act prohibits the possession of firearms, frames and receivers of firearms, and unfinished frames and receivers unless the firearm, frame, or receiver has been imprinted with a serial number. The “frame or receiver” is that part of the firearm that houses or holds the weapon’s fire control components, such as the hammer, the bolt, and the trigger mechanism. An unfinished frame or receiver is a component that can be readily converted or completed into a firearm, frame, or receiver. The act establishes a process for persons to bring their firearms and components to a licensed firearms dealer and have a serial number printed on them. The serialization must be completed by February 28, 2025, after which it will be unlawful for a person to possess, transfer, or manufacture an unserialized firearm, an unserialized frame or receiver of a firearm, or an unserialized unfinished frame or receiver of a firearm.

The act prohibits the possession of a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon at a polling place, or on the walks leading to a building in which a polling place is located, on an election day. Possession is also prohibited in the town clerk’s office during any period when a board of civil authority has voted to permit early voting. A person who possesses a firearm at a polling place in violation of the law may be imprisoned not more than one year, which is the same penalty for unlawfully possessing a firearm at a school.

The act also requires the Vermont Crime Research Group to report data on prosecutions of unserialized firearm offenses to the Legislature and requires the Office of the Secretary of State to report to the Legislature on options for prohibiting firearms in municipal and State government buildings, including the Vermont State House.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 28, 2024