

1 S.3

2 Introduced by Senator Baruth

3 Referred to Committee on Finance

4 Date: January 27, 2023

5 Subject: Crimes; paramilitary training camps

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the
7 ownership and operation of paramilitary training camps in Vermont.

8 An act relating to prohibiting paramilitary training camps

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 ~~Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 4023 is added to read:~~

11 § 4023. PARAMILITARY TRAINING CAMPS PROHIBITED

12 (a) A person shall not own or operate a paramilitary training camp or
13 facility in the State of Vermont. A person who violates this subsection shall be
14 imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or
15 both.

16 (b) This section shall not apply to:

17 (1) training conducted by a state or federal law enforcement agency;

18 (2) training conducted by the Vermont National Guard, the National

19 Guard of another state, or the U.S. Armed Forces;

1 ~~(3) training conducted by a state, county, or municipal fire department;~~

2 ~~(4) an active shooter drill conducted by a Vermont school district;~~

3 ~~(5) a Vermont hunter safety course or an equivalent hunter safety course~~

4 ~~that is approved by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife; or~~

5 ~~(6) sport shooting conducted at a sport shooting range.~~

6 ~~(c) As used in this section:~~

7 ~~(1) “Paramilitary training” means instruction:~~

8 ~~(A) that is designed to prepare a person for combat through the~~

9 ~~simulation of military training and tactics,~~

10 ~~(B) that involves staged or simulated attacks on buildings, vehicles,~~

11 ~~or persons; or~~

12 ~~(C) in the use of explosives as defined in section 1603 of this title.~~

13 ~~(2) “Sport shooting range” has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A.~~

14 ~~§ 5227(a).~~

15 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 ~~This act shall take effect on passage.~~

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. chapter 85 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 85. WEAPONS

** * **

Subchapter 3. Unauthorized Military Training

§ 4071. PARAMILITARY TRAINING PROHIBITED

(a) A person shall not:

(1) teach, train, or demonstrate to any other person the use, application, or making of a firearm, explosive, or incendiary device capable of causing injury or death, or in techniques capable of causing injury or death to persons, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the teaching, training, or demonstrating will be unlawfully employed for use in or in furtherance of a civil disorder; or

(2) assemble with one or more other persons for the purpose of being taught, trained, or instructed in the use, application, or making of a firearm, explosive, or incendiary device capable of causing injury or death, or in techniques capable of causing injury or death to persons, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the teaching, training, or instruction will be unlawfully employed for use in or in furtherance of a civil disorder.

(b) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to:

(1) activity engaged in for legitimate law enforcement purposes by a federal law enforcement officer or a law enforcement officer certified as a law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358;

(2) lawful activity engaged in by students at Norwich University or any other educational institution where military science is taught as a prescribed part of the course of instruction;

(3) any activity undertaken without knowledge of or intent to cause or further a civil disorder that is intended to teach or practice self-defense or self-defense techniques, including karate clubs, self-defense clinics, and similar lawful activity;

(4) any facility, program, or lawful activity related to firearms instruction and training that is intended to teach the safe handling and use of firearms; or

(5) any lawful sports or activities related to the individual recreational use of possession of firearms, including hunting pursuant to 10 V.S.A. part 4, target shooting, self-defense, and firearms collection.

§ 4072. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Civil disorder” means any public disturbance involving acts of violence by an assemblage of two or more persons that causes an immediate

danger of or results in damage or injury to the property or person of any other individual.

(2) “Explosive” has the same meaning as in subdivision 1603(2) of this title.

(3) “Firearm” has the same meaning as in subdivision 4016(a)(3) of this title.

(4) “Incendiary device” means a device so constructed that an ignition by fire, friction, concussion, detonation, or other method may produce destructive effects primarily through combustion rather than explosion. The term does not include a manufactured device or article in common use by the general public that is designed to produce combustion for a lawful purpose, including matches, lighters, flares, or devices commercially manufactured primarily for the purpose of illumination, heating, or cooking. The term does not include firearms ammunition.

§ 4073. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT; INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

If the Attorney General or a State’s Attorney has reason to believe that a person is violating or is about to violate section 4071 of this title, and that proceedings would be in the public interest, the Attorney General or State’s Attorney may bring an action in the name of the State in the Civil Division of the Superior Court to restrain the violation by temporary or permanent injunction. The action shall be brought in the Superior Court of the county in which the person resides, has a place of business, or is doing business. The courts are authorized to issue temporary or permanent injunctions to restrain and prevent violations of section 4071 of this title.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.