

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Institute for Legislative Action**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

March 9, 2026

The Honorable Martin LaLonde  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
Vermont General Assembly  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301  
Room 30

Re: NRA Testimony on House Bill 606 (Arsenault)

Dear Chair LaLonde:

I am writing to you regarding House Bill 606 (H. 606), an act relating to firearms procedures. On behalf of the National Rifle Association, I would like to express our strong opposition to this bill as it is currently written.

While the first two sections of H. 606 address areas related to criminal conduct, sections 3 and 4 of this bill create serious concerns for Vermont gun owners.

Section 3 of H. 606 seeks to amend 13 V.S.A. § 4017a to expand the definition of a prohibited person under state law. This amendment is completely unnecessary. The majority of amendment is redundant to existing federal prohibitions. Under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(4), those who has been adjudicated as a mental defective or who has been committed to a mental institution” are prohibited from transferring or possessing firearms. Under existing Vermont Health Law, where the court finds an involuntary commitment is appropriate, that commitment is already required to be reported to NICS. See 18 V.S.A. § 7617a. While the court could clearly decline granting the order, Vermont law presents a third option to courts to require outpatient treatment in lieu of a commitment. Under H. 606, this outpatient treatment order, *when the respondent does not meet the exigent criteria for an involuntary commitment*, would be treated the same as an involuntary commitment. This is inconsistent with federal law and would require respondents to seek an expungement for a *noncommitment* which would burden both the respondent and Vermont courts. Under Federal law, the respondent should be able to produce the order for outpatient treatment as evidence that person is NOT prohibited.

Section 4 of H. 606 seeks to amend 13 V.S.A. § 4022, to expand the list of prohibited items to include both “auto sears” and “rapid fire devices,” the possession of which could result in up to a year in prison. This bill section would create significant inconsistencies between state law and federal law. Synchronizing state law with federal definitions would simplify the task for Vermont law enforcement agencies and

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prosecutors while protecting law abiding gun owners, some of whom may have gone through the lengthy process to register those items under the National Firearms Act, purchased a federal tax stamp and are currently compliant with stringent federal regulations. Instead, H. 606 potentially makes law abiding gun owners into criminals overnight, treats the illegal transfer of machine guns far lighter than federal law would, and creates ambiguous categories like “rapid fire devices” which could lead to selective or inconsistent enforcement. As written, virtually any perfectly legal part or accessory could meet the definition of a “rapid fire device.”

On behalf of NRA’s thousands of members in Vermont, we respectfully request you oppose this legislation as written.

Sincerely,

Joseph LoPorto  
State Director  
State & Local Affairs

cc: Committee Members