
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. **505** Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY EICHELBERGER,

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

AN ACT

Protecting from infringement the individual right of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to bear arms as provided in Article I, Section 21 of the Pennsylvania Constitution

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The General Assembly hereby finds and declares as follows:

- (a) The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and its protections of the right to bear arms, pre-date the Constitution of the United States.
- (b) It is an established canon of judicial construction that a state constitution may not offer less protection of individual rights than the U.S. Constitution, but it can afford more protections.
- (c) Article I, § 21 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania provides: "The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be

questioned.”

- (d) Pennsylvania’s constitutional protection of an individual’s right to bear arms is clear and unequivocal.

Section 2. Use of State Resources To Enforce Federal laws relating to firearms, firearm components or ammunition.

(a) General Rule.—Neither the Commonwealth, nor any of its political subdivisions shall allow the use of any resources or public funds to enforce any Federal law, Executive Order or regulation, which is enacted or promulgated after the effective date of this act, and which attempts to register, restrict or ban the ownership or purchase, whether by number or type, of a firearm, component of a firearm, or ammunition.

(b) Definition.— As used in this Act, the term “resources” shall mean and include judicial buildings, correctional facilities, personnel, and equipment.

Section 3. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.