

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-D011  
**Title:** The Prohibition of Assault Weapons  
**Proposer:** McDaniel, Mr. Joe  
**Topic:** Gun Control, Weapons

---

---

### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

2022-B006 Advocate for State-Level Gun Violence Prevention  
2015-C005 Implement Laws to Decrease Gun Violence  
1997-C035 Urge Restrictions on Sale, Ownership and Use of Firearms  
1991-B042 Express the Mind of the House Bishops Supporting Handgun Controls  
1976-C052 Urge Congress to Adopt Effective Hand Gun Control Legislation

### **Indirectly Related:** (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2015-B008 Support Handgun Purchaser Licensing  
2000-B007 Request the Removal of Handguns and Assault Weapons  
2000-D004 Express Concern About Availability of Handguns and Assault Weapons  
1997-D033 Urge Legislation on the Safe Manufacture of Domestic Hand Guns

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).*

# D011 - The Prohibition of Assault Weapons

---

**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** McDaniel, Mr. Joe

**Endorsed by:** Kemp, The Rev. Rowena, King, Sharalyne

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib:** No

**Directs Dfms Staff:** No

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** Yes

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 07 - Social Justice & United States Policy

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

---

## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church hereby again urge that the United States Congress adopt a new ban on the purchase and ownership of all assault weapons, automatic weapons, semi-automatic weapons, or weapons that operate similarly thereto; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 81st General Convention direct, consistent with established policies and procedures, that the Executive Council refer this Resolution to the Office of Government Relations, so that it may take all actions necessary to accomplish the intentions and purposes of this Resolution.

## Explanation

The National Firearms Act (NFA), [73rd Congress](#), Sess. 2, ch. 757, 48 [Stat. 1236](#) was enacted on June 26, 1934, and is currently codified and amended as [I.R.C. ch. 53](#). And since the law is an [Act of Congress](#) in the United States that, in general, imposes an [excise](#) tax on the manufacturer, and transfer of [certain firearms](#), and mandates the registration of

those firearms. The NFA also is referred to as ;[Title II](#) of the federal firearms laws, with the [Gun Control Act of 1968](#) ("GCA") as Title I; and

According to numerous news articles and various news commentaries such as one written by Jay Andersen in the AZMIRROR, an Arizona Newspaper, "AR-15 style rifles have played a prominent role in many high-profile mass shootings in this country and have come to be widely characterized as the weapon of choice for these crimes. AR-15s or similar rifles were the primary weapons used in around half of the 10 deadliest mass shootings in modern American history, including the 2012 [Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting](#) (in Connecticut); the 2017 Sutherland Springs Church shooting (in Texas); the 2018 Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting (in Florida). Many of the nation's most recent shootings in 2022 & 2023 have involved AR-15s or similar rifles; and now in Buffalo, (New York); Uvalde, (Texas);" and the Fourth of July shooting in Highland Park, Illinois; and

Assault weapons originally were designed for military use as full or semi-automatic weapons of war. As such, they were designed to fire ammunitions at three times the velocity of ordinary rifles and with such force to kill people in warfare; and

There is no rational reason to sell such weapons to the general public, especially when weighed against the increasing danger to public safety caused by the sale of each and every such weapon; and

Assault weapons are commercially manufactured and sold as semi-automatic weapons in the U.S. to persons 18 years or older based on a background check via the "National Instant Criminal Background Check System" (NICS). The background check is based on having proper identification such as a government-issued photo I.D. card, driver's license, or passport. The purchaser must also complete the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) form 4473 when purchased from a Federal Firearm Licensed (FFL) dealer; and

Sawed-off (short-barreled) shotguns, rifles, or firearm suppressors classified as Title II devices under the NFA have additional requirements when purchased or transferred. The purchase or transfer must be completed through a Class III (FFL) dealer. The applicant is required to complete ATF Form 4, provide two passport-style photos, a set of ATF fingerprint cards, and pay \$200.00 for a tax stamp. The purchase or transfer cannot be completed by the (FFL) dealer until approval has been received from ATF; and

An applicant for the purchase or transfer of a Title II device through a Class III dealer must be; a United States Citizen, at least 21 years of age, meet the requirements for buying a handgun; and be a resident of the state where the firearm is purchased or transferred; and

A law requiring assault weapons to be classified as Title II devices and sold or transferred under these laws and regulations is an option that would deter undesirable applicants and slow down the process to obtain an assault weapon. Such safety requirements would establish controls to ensure this type of weapon is not readily or easily obtainable for illegal purposes, most notably, mass shootings; and

The physical and mental damage is done to victims of such shootings who, particularly in the case of children are left unrecognizable by assault-style weapons and the victims and families of shootings must bear the financial burden; and

The rapidity at which mass shootings are occurring with the use of such weapons is continuing to increase rapidly making clear that such shooting violence in our country has reached a crisis; and

The FBI has made public pronouncements indicating that our greatest threat from terrorists in our country is from domestic terrorists; and

The Federal Assault Weapons Ban in effect from 1994 to 2004 was found in multiple studies to reduce public mass shootings, gun deaths, and gun injuries; and

There are estimates that over 20 million Americans now possess these types of assault, automatic or semi-automatic weapons; and

The use of such weapons can and has given various mass shooters certain advantages over law enforcement and security officials who, after or during a shooting, try to restore the public peace and/or arrest the shooter who is in possession of an AR-15 style assault weapon.

Therefore, this General Convention urges the members of the United States Congress to adopt a new ban on the purchase and ownership of all assault weapons, automatic weapons, semi-automatic weapons, or weapons that operate similarly thereto.

Note: this resolution and/or its explanation contains external references, such as URLs of websites, that may not be in the required languages of General Convention. Because of copyright restrictions, the General Convention cannot provide translations. However, your web browser may be able to provide a machine translation into another language. If you need assistance with this, please contact [gc.support@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:gc.support@episcopalchurch.org).



**Resolution Number:** 2022-B006  
**Title:** Advocate for State-Level Gun Violence Prevention  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention urge dioceses of The Episcopal Church across the United States to advocate for safe gun legislation with their state governments; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations support domestic dioceses in state-level advocacy against gun violence and other forms of community violence; and be it further*

*Resolved, That to assist the Office of Government Relations in this state-level advocacy against violence, the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$160,000 for the implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 853-854.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-C005  
**Title:** Implement Laws to Decrease Gun Violence  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention on the 50th anniversary of the murder of seminarian Jonathan Daniels, urge all legislators at federal, state and local levels to help decrease gun violence by implementing laws that;

1. Require permits to carry concealed weapons and criminal background checks for every gun purchase, including those made at gun shows; and
2. Except for the use of military and law enforcement agencies, ban the sale, transfer, importation and manufacture of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines; and
3. Ban the importation and manufacture of Full-Auto Conversion kits that convert guns into automatic weapons; and
4. Tighten laws against gun trafficking, and increase penalties for those who engage in "straw purchases" of firearms for ineligible persons; and
5. Prohibit persons from purchasing guns without evidence of gun safety training; and
6. Recognize the impact of existing inheritance laws on the transfer of gun ownership; and
7. Promote funding for research into the prevention and causes of gun violence.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 328.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-C035  
**Title:** Urge Restrictions on Sale, Ownership and Use of Firearms  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention, through the Office of Government Relations, urge the Congress of the Unites States to increase restrictions on the sale, ownership and use of firearms, particularly "Saturday night specials" (described as short-barreled, four inches or shorter, easily concealed hand gun); and be it further*  
*Resolved, That legislation to ban carrying concealed firearms be encouraged; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That Congress be urged to adopt legislation requiring the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to develop regulations to delineate appropriate safety standards for use of firearms, and circumstances under which firearms may be used and to monitor and enforce compliance with said safety standards.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 782.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-B042  
**Title:** Express the Mind of the House Bishops Supporting Handgun Controls  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Adopted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the House of Bishops, meeting in the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, reaffirm its support for sound handgun control legislation, a position first taken in 1976; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this House of Bishops endorse the so-called Brady Bill now before the Congress of the United States as a first step toward effective handgun control. It is sensible legislation which requires waiting periods and background checks on those persons who wish to purchase handguns; and be it further*

*Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, appropriate members of Congress and other appropriate government entities.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 380.





**Resolution Number:** 1976-C052  
**Title:** Urge Congress to Adopt Effective Hand Gun Control Legislation  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 65th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, meeting in Minneapolis, September 11-23, 1976, urge the Congress of the United States to adopt effective hand gun legislation as promptly as possible and that this resolution be communicated to the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime of the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Senators Birch Bayh and James Eastland of the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate, and to the President of the National Rifle Association; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this General Convention urge all citizens to support federal, state, and local legislation aimed at controlling the sale and use of hand guns.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976* (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-107.