

HB 609-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

7Jan2026... 0019h

2025 SESSION

25-0889

11/09

HOUSE BILL

609-FN

AN ACT

relative to the general court's authority over the sale, purchase, ownership, use, possession, transportation, licensing, permitting, taxation, and other matter pertaining to firearms, stun guns, Tasers, pepper spray devices, knives and other self-defense tools.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Farrington, Straf. 8; Rep. Aures, Merr. 13; Rep. DeRoy, Straf. 3; Rep. DeVito, Rock. 8; Rep. Drew, Hills. 19; Rep. Layon, Rock. 13; Rep. McFarlane, Graf. 18; Rep. Wood, Merr. 13

COMMITTEE:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

ANALYSIS

This bill provides that the general court has authority and jurisdiction over the regulation of firearms, stun guns, Tasers, pepper spray devices, knives and other self-defense tools.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT relative to the general court's authority over the sale, purchase, ownership, use, possession, transportation, licensing, permitting, taxation, and other matter pertaining to firearms, stun guns, Tasers, pepper spray devices, knives and other self-defense tools.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Preemption and Right of Action. Amend RSA 159:26 to read as follows:

2 159:26 Firearms, Ammunition, and Knives; Authority of the State.

3 I. To the extent consistent with federal law, the [state] **general court** of New Hampshire
4 shall have **exclusive** authority and jurisdiction over the sale, purchase, ownership, use, possession,
5 transportation, licensing, permitting, taxation, or other matter pertaining to firearms, firearms
6 components, ammunition, firearms supplies, **stun guns, Tasers, pepper spray devices**, [ø] knives,
7 **or other self-defense tools** in the state. Except as otherwise specifically provided by **state** statute,
8 no ordinance, **rule**, or regulation of a political subdivision **or agency** may regulate the sale,
9 purchase, ownership, use, possession, transportation, licensing, permitting, taxation, or other matter
10 pertaining to firearms, firearms components, ammunition, or firearms supplies in the state. Nothing
11 in this section shall be construed as affecting a political subdivision's right to adopt zoning
12 ordinances for the purpose of regulating firearms, **stun guns, Tasers, pepper spray devices**, [ø]
13 knives, **or other self-defense tools** businesses in the same manner as other businesses or to take
14 any action allowed under RSA 207:59.

15 II. Upon the effective date of this section, all [municipal] ordinances, **rules**, and regulations
16 **of a political subdivision or agency** not authorized under paragraph I relative to the sale,
17 purchase, ownership, use, possession, transportation, licensing, permitting, taxation, or other matter
18 pertaining to firearms, firearm components, ammunition, firearms supplies, **stun guns, Tasers,**
19 **pepper spray devices**, [ø] knives, **or other self-defense tools** shall be null and void.

20 **III. Any person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter may petition the superior**
21 **court under RSA 91-A:7 and seek remedies under RSA 91-A:8.**

22 2 New Section; Firearms; Severability. Amend RSA 159 by inserting after section 27 the
23 following new section:

24 159:28 Severability. If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or
25 circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the
26 chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the
27 provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

28 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HB 609-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2026-0019h)**

AN ACT relative to the general court's authority over the sale, purchase, ownership, use, possession, transportation, licensing, permitting, taxation, and other matter pertaining to firearms, stun guns, Tasers, pepper spray devices, knives and other self-defense tools.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

***Expenditure = Cost of bill**

***Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill**

METHODOLOGY:

This bill stipulates that the General Court will take over authority and jurisdiction for regulating firearms, stun guns, tasers, pepper spray devices, knives, and other self-defense tools.

The Legislative Branch notes that regulation is ongoing within the Executive Branch. However, the fiscal impact remains indeterminate, as the General Court has not detailed a specific plan for implementing this operation.

The Department of Safety (DOS) has indicated that the bill will have minimal to no impact on its Division for State Police, as it neither generates new demands nor depletes existing resources from the DOS.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Safety and Legislative Branch