

HB 609-FN - AS INTRODUCED

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

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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.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 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 and regulations not  
16 authorized under paragraph I relative to the sale, purchase, ownership, use, possession,  
17 transportation, licensing, permitting, taxation, or other matter pertaining to firearms, firearm  
18 components, ammunition, firearms supplies, **stun guns, Tasers, pepper spray devices**, [ø] knives,  
19 **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 INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to state authority over the sale, purchase, ownership, use, possession, transportation, licensing, permitting, taxation, or other matter pertaining to stun guns, tasers, and pepper spray devices.

**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
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$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